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Middle East & North Africa

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ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETINGS CONTINUE IN CAIRO

Closed Session on 27 March

NC272025Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers will resume their meetings at 1000 tomorrow to discuss Arab solidarity and the status of the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon.

The Arab foreign ministers held a session behind closed doors this evening. During the session Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal requested that the Arab foreign ministers confine their discussions to two topics--Arab solidarity and the Arab security forces in Lebanon. He also asked that the foreign ministers adjourn their meeting until tomorrow.

Sa'id Kamal, head of the PLO delegation, asked that a reassessment of Arab-U.S. relations be discussed at the ministerial level, if not at this session, then at another meeting. The Arab League Council began its 69th session at 1845 today at the level of Arab foreign ministers. The Arab rejectionist states are not attending the meeting. The PLO delegation joined the meeting at the end of the opening session of the council and participated in the closed meetings of the foreign ministers.

Evening Session on 28 March

NC281934Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers resumed their meetings at 1940 today to discuss the formula prepared by a special subcommittee regarding the achievement of Arab solidarity and the necessary means to unite Arab ranks.

Council Issues Resolutions

NC282220Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Following its meetings this evening the Arab League Council issued a statement which says that the council studied with utmost concern the present situation in the Middle East and the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. The council considers that Israel's insistence on pursuing its aggressive and expansionist policy and its disavowment of the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter, is liable to prevent the achievement of a just peace in the area.

While affirming the necessity of national solidarity and of settling current Arab disputes, the council resolves:

1. That there is a need to convene an Arab summit conference as soon as possible to mobilize all Arab strength and resources to confront the aggressive Israeli defiance and to shoulder the joint pan-Arab responsibility in accordance with the resolutions of the Algiers and Rabat Arab summit conferences, which were held in 1973 and 1974.

2. To form a committee on Arab solidarity at the highest level, in which the Arab League secretary general will participate, to settle current Arab disputes and create the appropriate atmosphere for convening the Arab summit conference. The council assigns its chairman, Sudanese Vice President and Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir, the job of contacting Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri to request that he assume the chairmanship of the committee and the task of forming it.

3. To continue backing the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and to bolster its achievements in the international sphere and develop its capabilities within the framework of the collective Arab commitment.

4. To condemn the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, continue collective action to achieve the expeditious withdrawal of the Israeli forces and affirm total respect of the unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon and its sovereignty and political independence within its internationally recognized borders.

5. To call on the Arab states to extend urgent humanitarian aid to the Lebanese and Palestinian victims of the Israeli invasion the Lebanon through the Lebanese Government and the PLO.

6. To back the Arab League and enable it to carry out its effective role in the joint Arab action in all fields.

Arab League Council Chairman ar-Rashid at-Tahir has stated that there was complete agreement that the convening of an Arab summit conference is considered a necessity at this stage. The council asked President Numayri to contact the Arab kings and presidents in the connection to prepare tne appropriate atmosphere for the conference in order to draw up a long-range strategy encompassing political economic and military aspects.

He added that the Arab League Council decided to extend the mandate of the Arab security forces in Lebanon for another 6 months. The council chairman will address messages to the Arab rejectionist states. The Arab foreign ministers will resume their meetings tomorrow to continue discussing the topics on their agenda, including a reassessment of Arab-U.S. relations.

Egypt Supports Solidarity Efforts

NC281544Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Text] A meeting was held this morning attended by the foreign ministers of Egypt, Kuwait, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Bahrain and the UAE. The meeting lasted for 3 hours. The radio correspondent has learned that the foreign ministers discussed means to strengthen Arab solidarity. Egypt affirmed its support for any Arab effort to achieve solidarity on objective bases, with no vituperations or outbiddings.

PLO Statement on Meetings

JN271128Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1124 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 27 March--The PLO has stated it will not participate in the Arab League Council meetings scheduled to begin in Cairo today. In a statement carried by the Palestinian news agency today, the PLO denies reports of its participation in these meetings.

'Arafat Instructions to Kamal

NC290929Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0845 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 March--A responsible Palestinian source has confirmed that Sa'id Kamal, deputy head of the PLO Political Department, has received clear instructions to attend the meetings of the Arab League Council as representative of Palestine.

The source said that the current uproar in Beirut regarding the PLO participation in these meetings is false and that it is not true that Sa'id Kamal represents only himself. The source said that well-known elements in the Palestinian resistance ranks are creating this uproar.

In a statement published today in the Egyptian newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, the Palestinian source said that Sa'id Kamal has received secret instructions from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to attend the meetings of the Arab League Council regardless of any statements or objections made in Beirut or Damascus. The source noted that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, had said that Sa'id Kamal was representing only himself. Qaddumi's statement followed the uproar created by the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by Nayif Hawatimah, and the front's claim that Sa'id Kamal's attendance at the Arab League Council meetings undermines the resolutions of the Tripoli steadfastness conference.

The Palestinian source said that the PLO was compelled to announce this in order to avoid a confrontation between the PLO and the steadfastness front states which would subject the Palestinian resistance members to danger.

Arab League Mediation

JN281210Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0940 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Doha, 28 March--The Arab League Council currently meeting in Cairo has decided to form an Arab ministerial committee at the foreign ministers level to act as mediator between Egypt and the countries of the steadfastness front so as to narrow the gap between their viewpoints and have them begin a dialog at the foreign ministers level.

This was reported in the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB published here this morning. The paper, quoting well-informed Arab sources, says: It is expected that the Kuwaiti and Saudi foreign ministers will tour a number of countries, particularly steadfastness countries and Egypt, to achieve a relaxation in the relations of these countries with each other. The paper further says: This step was encouraged by the atmosphere of optimism which prevailed about the relations between Egypt and the countries of the steadfastness front and which appeared clearly during the side meetings among delegation heads. The Arab foreign ministers also approved the delegation of some of their colleagues to tour a number of Arab capitals.

The paper says that high-level Arab contacts will take place during the next few days and that important messages will be conveyed by several foreign ministers to a number of Arab leaders dealing with the developments of the Arab-Zionist struggle and the situation in southern Lebanon.

UN PEACE FORCES COMMANDER MEETS WITH 'ARAFAT

JN281230Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1134 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 28 March--Gen Emmanuel Erskine, the commander of the UN emergency forces in Lebanon, arrived in Beirut this morning. After his arrival General Erskine met with Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and several resistance commanders. General Erskine discussed with 'Arafat the situation in southern Lebanon and the mission of the UN forces in the area.

Waldheim Statement on 'Arafat

JN282053Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 28 March--Responsible Palestinian sources tonight refused to comment on UN Secretary General Waldheim's statement concerning PLO leader 'Arafat's agreeing to a cease-fire in southern Lebanon. Dr Waldheim announced at the United Nations today that 'Arafat had consented to a cease-fire. 'Arafat's consent, he said, was conveyed to him through Gen Emmanuel Erskine, commander of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, who met with 'Arafat this afternoon.

OPEC POSTPONES INFORMAL MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

PA290339Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Text] OPEC today postponed for 1 month the conference of ministers of the member countries. The information was released by 'Ali Ja'ydah, secretary of OPEC. He added that the postponement will give the delegates more time to study the various problems. One of the principal matters which will be discussed at the informal conference in question is the possible replacement of the dollar. There is a movement within OPEC to replace the U.S. dollar with special drawing rights. OPEC sources said that the recent decline in the value of the dollar has resulted in a considerable decrease in oil income. Therefore, some of the 13 OPEC member countries have suggested discussing ways to maintain the level of oil income against the tottering U.S. dollar.

PLO OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES

LD271514Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Salim az-Za'nun, member of the PLO Executive Committee, deputy chairman of the Palestine National Council and Fatah representative in Kuwait, has expressed the gratitude of the Palestinian resistance to King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince and deputy prime minister, for the continued support the kingdom offers the Palestinians.

Salim az-Za'nun, who is on a visit to the kingdom, said at a press conference today that the position the kingdom adopts toward the Palestinian question stems from its Islamic values. It is seeking nothing but what is right and good. He said that during his meetings with the officials in the kingdom, he felt a determination to continue to support the Palestinian revolution, struggle for it and fight for the liberation of its usurped territory.

He said that there is identity between the objectives of the kingdom and the Palestinian resistance with regard to the sure desire and determination for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the prevention of the third holy mosque from remaining in the hands of the Zionists.

The kingdom's support for the Palestinian revolution, he said, has come in time. It is essential that this support should be at decisive moments when the Palestinian revolution is struggling against the fierce attacks waged against it by 30,000 Israeli soldiers supported by aircraft, ships and tanks and other instruments of destruction. He said that this stand by the kingdom and its speedy aid to the PLO has prompted other Arab countries to send aid according to its capabilities.

Replying to a question about the recent events in southern Lebanon and their effect on the progress of the Palestinians in retrieving their lands, Salim az-Za'nun said that what has taken place in southern Lebanon will not affect the course of the Palestinians. He added that the enemy had been planning for some time to contain the Palestinians in Lebanon and to pit them against their Moslem brothers in Beirut and neighboring areas, or to let the Phalangists attack them and a battle ensue in which Syria would be involved so that the Zionist enemy could succeed in changing the slogan raised internationally that the Middle East question cannot be solved by other than the just solution of the Palestinian question and replace it by the slogan that the Middle East question has been solved by the annihilation of the Palestinians and the imposition of a fait accompli on the Arab states and the imposition of the type of peace Israel wants.

Az-Za'nun spoke of the UN forces in southern Lebanon. He said that when the Palestinian revolution began on 1 January 1965, the UN emergency forces were stationed in Gaza and Sharm ash-Shaykh. He reiterated that the presence of these forces in southern Lebanon will not affect the Palestinian question at all. He affirmed that the strugglers for their homeland and territory do not bother about obstacles, however numerous they are or however many martyrs are killed.

The Kamal 'Udwan operation, he said, has debunked the theory of Israeli security. The Israelis must understand they can never have peace until they recognize the full rights of the Palestinian people.

Asked if the fedayeen operation in Tel Aviv [passage indistinct] since it felt that plotting against them and the Palestinian revolution is in full swing, realized that the true struggle must be concentrated within the occupied territory so that the entire world may know that we are determined to regain our rights and that we will make use of all forms of struggle to attain our objectives. The most sublime form of jihad, he said, is that our youth should consider life and death on an equal footing and should move into the heart of Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jaffa and the rest of our occupied territory.

He expressed his regret at the shattered Arab situation. He affirmed that the Palestinians realized they would have to fight Israel alone if it were to decide to strike them in southern Lebanon. This is because the international situation does not permit any of the confrontation states to enter into a battle with Israel.

Az-Za'nun said that he can excuse many of the countries around them. This is because matters (?have not reached a state which obliges them to fight against Israel).

He said that the Palestinians have sought and will seek to set up a northern front capable of standing fast and defending itself alone and that the paths through which they can enter the occupied territory will remain open until the Arabs can support the fedayeen action.

Az-Za'nun referred to the cease-fire in southern Lebanon and said that the ceasefire does not concern the resistance at all and it is not a party to it because Israel does not recognize us. Speaking of the likelihood of a replacement to Menahem Begin, the Zionist enemy prime minister, and whether this will affect Israel's rigidity, Az-Za'nun said: the Israeli leaders from Herzel to Begin believe in one principle. In the end, all of them are the same.

BAHRAIN

MINISTER LEAVES FOR LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE

JN2710317 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 27 March--Dr Husayn Muhammad al-Baharanah, the Bahraini minister of state for legal affairs, left here today for Geneva to head his country's delegation to the Third International Conference on Law of the Sea which is to begin its meetings there and continue for 6 weeks.

In a statement before his departure, Dr al-Baharanah told the GULF NEWS AGENCY: "This conference is of great importance since all the members of the United Nations will be represented in it." Al-Baharanah added that the conference will discuss a draft plan on mutual cooperation which will serve as a basis for a new charter incorporating all the rules and regulations governing the law of the sea. The Bahraini minister concluded his statement by saying: "The conference will also discuss several other topics on economic shipping rules and regulations concerning sea affairs."

KUWAIT

PDRY PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN KUWAIT FOR TALKS

LD2711207 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad arrived in Kuwait at about 1030 today for a 2-day official visit. On arrival, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad made a statement in which he said that his visit is within the framework of the PDRY's desire to develop cooperative relations with other Arab states. He said that in view of the complex and dangerous circumstances the Arabs are experiencing, caused by the aggressive enemy plots and the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon, his country feels the need to exchange views and have consultations with Arab officials in order to be able to face this phase and to offer support to the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese people.

Meets With Prime Minister

LD2810527 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] At 1000 today Prime Minister Shaykh al-'Abdallah as-Sabah received PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. At 1030 the talks between the two delegations opened. They dealt with the good bilateral relations between the two countries and with how to strengthen them in various fields. Other questions of common interest were also discussed.

Press Statement Issued on Visit

LD2818487 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The following is a press statement on the visit to Kuwait by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, prime minister of the PDRY:

His Excellency 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council and prime minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen paid an official visit to Kuwait from 27 to 28 March 1978. He was accompanied by a delegation consisting of Their Excellencies Muhammad Salih Muti', the foreign minister; Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, minister of installations; Ahmad Ahmad 'Ubayd, minister of information; and a number of officials of the Yemeni Democratic People's Republic.

The honored guest began his visit by meeting his highness the amir of Kuwait. He also saw Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, crown prince and prime minister, and other Kuwaiti officials. In an atmosphere of brotherhood, a joint meeting was held under the chairmanship of the crown prince on the Kuwaiti side and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad on the Yemeni side. Bilateral relations and the Arab and international situations were reviewed.

Views coincided that it is necessary to work toward unifying Arab ranks in the face of imperialist and Zionist ambitions, which have led to the occupation of Arab land, to the destitution of the Palestinians and to the recent occupation of another part of the Arab homeland in southern Lebanon. The two sides agreed on the need to continue holding consultations and exchanging views in order to support a unified Arab policy aimed at safeguarding the unity and interests of the Arabs.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed his deepest thanks to the amir and to the government and people of Kuwait for the hospitality he and his delegation received. He also invited the crown prince to visit the Yemeni Democratic People's Republic. His excellency gratefully accepted the invitation and promised to pay a visit at the earliest possible opportunity.

CONTRIBUTION TO ANTI-SOVIET FUND FOR ANGOLA DENIED

NC290908Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 29 March--'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs and acting foreign minister, has denied British claims about contributions to a secret fund set up by Arab, Iranian and French circles to combat Soviet influence in Angola.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN today, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said that Kuwait knows nothing about such a fund and that it has no desire to fight any regime anywhere in the world. He said that Kuwait does not interfere in the domestic affairs of any country with any kind of regime, and it deals with all states on the basis of equality and mutual respect. The Kuwaiti minister of state emphasized that Kuwait does not condone any foreign presence in any state and that every state in the world is free to choose its own form of government.

The London OBSERVER reported Sunday that a secret fund had been set up against Soviet-Cuban influence in Angola and that the fund totaled 10 million pounds sterling put up by France, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and another Arab state, possibly Kuwait.

SAUDI ARABIA

KING KHALID RECEIVES TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER

LD281904Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] This morning King Khalid received Tunisian Prime Minister Nouira and the delegation accompanying him. The minister of defense and aviation was present. The king gave a luncheon today for the Tunisian visitors. Nouira has now left for Medina.

Nouira Departs 29 March

NC290838Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Jidda, 29 March--Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Mouira and the delegation accompanying him left Jidda this morning for home after an official visit of several days to the kingdom.

TURKISH CYPRIOT OFFICIALS ARRIVE FOR TALKS

LD272318Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] The defense and foreign affairs minister and the trade minister of the Turkish federated state of Cyprus, accompanied by the Foreign Ministry director, arrived in Jiddah. They were welcomed at the airport by Salim Sunbul, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the Turkish ambassador and others. They will hold talks with Foreign Ministry officials and the Islamic Congress Organization.

SYRIAN-U.S. OPPOSITION TO PALESTINIANS REPORTED

NC281253Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1223 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Jidda, 28 March--The Saudi newspaper AL-MADINAH says today that contacts between Damascus and Washington have resulted in a coordinated plan to block the way of the Palestinians who try to cross the Litani River in the direction of the occupied territory, and to leave it to Israeli missile-carrying boats to blockade the Lebanese coast.

In a dispatch from Washington, the paper says that Syria has reaffirmed to Washington that it will, as much as possible, pin the Palestinians to their positions, as it did previously when the Syrian units entered Lebanon. The paper adds that observers believe that Syria can justify its position by saying that it does not want to clash with Israel at a time and place of Israel's choosing.

Meanwhile, the Saudi paper says that observers do not expect the U.S. Government to take any important step in connection with the peace process at present, not before the Israeli position in Lebanon becomes clear. Furthermore, the paper adds, Washington is avoiding putting pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, as this may prove counterproductive since Washington fears that the American and Israeli Jews might rally in support of Begin if the United States were to put much pressure on him.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR ARAB LEAGUE SESSION

LD271220Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, left Riyad for Cairo this morning to attend the 69th Arab League Council session. He was accompanied by the foreign ministers of Kuwait and Bahrain, who arrived in Saudi Arabia this morning and had talks with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at the airport prior to leaving together to Cairo.

YEMEN--PDRY

PRIME MINISTER LEAVES FOR ABU DHABI, KUWAIT

LD251952Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, left Aden today for Abu Dhabi at the head of a delegation paying an official visit to the United Arab Emirates. The visit will last for several days. He was seen off at the airport by brother Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, assistant secretary general of the Central Committee and chairman of the Presidential Council, and several brother members of the Politburo, the Central Committee, ministers and senior officials of the organization and the state.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad made a press statement before he left Aden in which he explained that the visit to the UAE was to confirm the wish of our country to develop and strengthen relations of fraternal cooperation between Democratic Yemen and the UAE. It also [word indistinct] from the nature of the current situation through which the Arab nation was passing and which required strengthening the bonds of fraternal relationships among the Arab peoples who were facing the dogfights of imperialism [words indistinct] and their liberation. [words indistinct] and the obstruction of their peaceful development and the social progress of their peoples.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed confidence that his visit and that of his delegation to the fraternal UAE would produce fruitful results which would serve the development of the bilateral relations between the two countries. [words indistinct] Common cooperation, especially as this would serve the interests of our peoples and would strengthen the existing fraternal relations between the Arab peoples.

The brother chairman of the Council of Ministers said in his statement that, after concluding his official visit to the UAE, he would make a similar visit to the fraternal State of Kuwait with the object of [word indistinct] and exchange of views on a number of questions of interest to our two countries and peoples, of which the first would be bilateral relations and the fraternal cooperation between the two fraternal countries. Concluding his statement, brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad emphasized that his visit to the fraternal State of Kuwait would constitute a new (?section) along the road of fraternal cooperation in the service of the interests and aims of the solidarity of our two peoples in Democratic Yemen and the fraternal State of Kuwait.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, is accompanied by brother Muhammad Salih Muti, member of the Politburo and foreign minister; brother Haydar Abu Bakr al''Attasi, member of the Central Committee and minister of installations; brother Ahmad Salim 'Ubayd, minister of information; and other brother (?officials).

YEMEN--YAR

MINISTRY REVEALS CONTACTS WITH STEADFASTNESS STATES

JN281836Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] In a statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY today, a responsible source in the Foreign Ministry said that the YAR is in continuous contact with Libya, Algeria and Iraq to strengthen Arab solidarity so as to confront the Zionist challenges and the continuous aggression against southern Lebanon.

AL-ASNAJ CONTACTS MINISTERS ON PROPOSED SUMMIT

JN281922Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, currently in Cairo to attend the meetings of Arab League foreign ministers, yesterday met with Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, Sudanese vice president and foreign minister; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait; Prince Sa-ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of Saudi Arabia; Shaykh Muhammad Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahrain foreign minister; and M'hamed Boucetta, foreign minister of Morocco. These contacts were aimed at discussing the YAR suggestion to hold an Arab summit conference to deal with the current Arab situation and the deteriorating Arab relations. The YAR delegation headed by the foreign minister is presenting the YAR's suggestion to hold a preparatory meeting before the summit.

SAUDI INFORMATION DELEGATION ARRIVES IN SAN'A'

JN2613122Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] Brother Ahmad Salih ar-Ru'ayni, acting minister of information and culture [title as heard], received in his office this morning Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz Muhyi ad-Din al-Khujah, Saudi information under secretary, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting talks were held on information cooperation between the two countries and the agenda of the Yemeni-Saudi joint information committee, which stemmed from the Yemeni-Saudi joint coordination council. Dr al-Khujah arrived in San'a' this morning on a 3-day official visit to the YAR, during which he will preside over the Saudi side to the third meeting of the Yemeni-Saudi information committee.

BRIEFS

BAHRAINI MINISTER'S ARRIVAL--Abu Dhabi, 27 March--Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, Bahraini minister of development and industry, arrived here this morning on an official visit to the UAE. He was received at the airport by Sa'id Ghabbash, UAE minister of planning, and several officials of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development. [Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN]

ABU DHABI FUND--Abu Dhabi, 27 March--His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent of Abu Dhabi and board chairman of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development, has presided over the first meeting of the new board of the fund. Following the meeting, Nasir an-Nuwayyis, the fund's director general, stated that the board reviewed the general policy of the fund and studied its activities during the last years. [Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN]

YAR FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER--Abu Dhabi, 27 March--UAE Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi has received a letter from YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj. This was announced by the UAE NEWS AGENCY, citing a statement by the Yemeni ambassador to the UAE at the end of his meeting with Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi last night. The news agency added that the letter pertains to promoting bilateral relations as well as the latest developments of the current Arab situation and Yemen's call for an Arab summit conference to restore Arab solidarity. [Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1440 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN]

AL-AHRAM REPORTS ON BEGIN MESSAGE TO AS-SADAT

NC2908447 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 March--Israeli enemy Prime Minister Menahem Begin has refused to change his policy toward the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip. In a message received by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, Begin stressed his insistence on pursuing his policy of intransigence toward the Middle East peace negotiations. The Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM, which reports this today, says that Begin also refused to give up the Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territory. It was reported in occupied Jerusalem yesterday that Begin sent a message to President as-Sadat proposing the resumption of negotiations between the two sides, which have been suspended for more than a month.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER

NC2821307 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat this evening received Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi minister for foreign affairs. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil. Kamil stated that the Saudi foreign minister conveyed a message to President Anwar as-Sadat from King Khalid of Saudi Arabia. He said that the developments of the Arab situation were also discussed during the meeting.

ISRAELI PLAN TO ASSASSINATE PALESTINIANS REPORTED

NC2909407 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 March--The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH today says that Israel has prepared a plan for the assassination of 150 Palestinian leaders it considers an obstacle to its plans for the West Bank and Gaza. The paper, quoting its correspondent in Beirut, adds that the intelligence service of an Arab state was able to obtain the Israeli plan and the list of names and has submitted a full report to the PLO. In its report, the paper says, this intelligence service said that after learning of the Israeli plan, a big power advised Israel not to carry it out.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DECIDES TO EXPEL 'ASHUR NASR

NC2814047 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] At its meeting this morning, the People's Assembly decided to expel 'Ashur Nasr, alias Shaykh 'Ashur, member for the customs district constituency in Alexandria, for having insulted the People's Assembly and the president of the republic. After the members of the Al-Wafd Party withdrew from the meeting, 279 members voted for the decision and 19 members against.

PRESS COMMENTS ON AL-QADHDHAFI'S TOBRUK SPEECH

NC2908327 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 29 March--The Cairo newspapers today comment on yesterday's speech by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in which he exposed the deep differences within the ranks of the rejection states and described the Arab deterrent forces as the forces of shame.

AL-AKHBAR says that Al-Qadhdhafi's attack on Syria is fresh evidence of the disturbed relations among the rejection states. It adds: Everything without foundation is bound to collapse, and this is what is now happening. In an article by its political editor, Al-AKHBAR also says that the solution does not lie in mere words, nor in the call for unity between the Egyptian and Libyan armies for the sake of declaring war, nor in attacking the peace initiative which is supported by the whole world.

In conclusion AL-AKHBAR says: The peace strategy has its rules and principles and so has the war strategy. As for words, anyone can say anything, but serious work for a liberation cause cannot be done through public speeches. Indeed, the Arab situation requires comprehensive study, but there is a place and a proper way of conducting such a study.

In an article by its chief editor, AL-AHRAM says: Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's speech is tantamount to a declaration of a number of things, especially the dissolution of the rejection front, because placing the Libyan armed forces under the command of Egypt means that these forces have ended their subservience to the rejection front. This then means that the front no longer has a source to provide the funds on which it depends.

Analyzing President Boumediene's position, the author says: The Algerian president has failed to achieve the objectives which had prompted him to join the rejection front, because placing the Libyan forces under Egyptian command means that they would not fight the Moroccan forces and would not provide support for the POLISARIO Front.

He adds: Al-Qadhdhafi's declaration constitutes a complete admission by Libya that Egypt is the real power in the Arab homeland, the power that makes war or peace. If Libya believed that Syria, its partner in the rejection front, could play this role, it would have placed its armed forces at the disposal of the Syrian military command to prevent Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon.

This declaration by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi comes after the Colonel became convinced that the rejection front was worthless. Everyone expected the front to act and prove itself, but it could not make a move and failed its first test miserably. In conclusion, the author says: The time has come for the Arabs to rise above outbidding and for the rejection front members to realize that their historic mistake was that they did not understand President as-Sadat's initiative and did not try to rise to its level.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR BOZOVIC

LD251336Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1203 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cairo--Anwar as-Sadat, president of Egypt, today received Aleksandar Bozovic, Yugoslav ambassador in Cairo, who presented his credentials. Ambassador Bozovic also conveyed a verbal message to President as-Sadat from President Tito. President as-Sadat then spent some time in a friendly conversation with Ambassador Bozovic, talking about the present situation in the Middle East. In the conversation, President as-Sadat highly praised the role of President Tito in the world in general, and in particular his understanding and defense of the just Arab cause in the Middle East crisis.

Tito Message to As-Sadat

NC290700Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 March--The newspaper AL-AHRAM says today that Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito has sent a lengthy message to President Anwar as-Sadat concerning his talks with U.S. President Jimmy Carter in Washington on the Middle East conflict and concerning President Tito's impressions of the visit.

AL-AHRAM adds that the message also dealt with the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon and President Tito's views regarding future moves. The paper says that President Tito noted the importance of continuing to exert efforts for peace. He stressed the possibility of holding a meeting at the United Nations to discuss the Middle East issue, as suggested by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, with the participation of all the parties to the conflict including the PLO. AL-AHRAM says that President Tito's message was delivered by the Yugoslav ambassador in Cairo to Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

EGYPT ESTABLISHES HIGHER COUNCIL FOR ENERGY

NC290754Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Mamduh Salim has issued a decision establishing a Higher Council for Energy under the chairmanship of the deputy prime minister and minister of electricity and energy, Engineer Ahmad Sultan. The council will hold its first meeting Sunday. It will discuss all subjects related to the exploitation of new sources of energy and the policy of the Ministry of Electricity in this respect.

The council includes Minister of Industry and Petroleum Engineer Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal; Minister of Education Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi; chairmen of the scientific research academies the Egyptian Electricity Authority and the National Research Center and a number of professors of the engineering colleges.

NEW OIL DISCOVERY REPORTED IN EASTERN DESERT

NC271228Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1132 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 March--The General Petroleum Company has made a new oil discovery in one of its prospecting areas in the Eastern Desert, north of the (Umm al-Yusr) area. A responsible source in the General Petroelum Authority has said that the preliminary results of this discovery confirm that this well produces 600 barrels daily, valued at about $6,000. The source said that several wells will be drilled in this area, where oil was struck at a depth of 1,200 meters.

INFORMATION AND CULTURE MINISTER LEAVES FOR JAPAN

NC290752Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Minister of Information and Culture 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi left Cairo last night for Japan on a 7-day visit as the head of a cultural delegation. He will open the Egyptian antiquities exhibition in Japan. As-Sawi told the radio correspondent that he will convey a message from President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat to Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda. The information minister noted the importance of his visit to Japan and said that his discussions will deal with the possibility of cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

RCC VICE CHAIRMAN TALKS WITH CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER

JN231901Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 March--Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], this evening received Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban minister of foreign relations. In the course of the meeting talks were held on ways of developing bilateral relations as well as on international issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Dr Sa'dun Hummadi, minister of foreign affairs, and the Iraqi and Cuban ambassadors in the capitals of the two countries.

Statement on Visit Issued

JN281821Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 March--Iraq and Cuba have affirmed that a just and lasting peace in the Arab area cannot be achieved without the eradication of the Zionist aggression and without the Palestinian people regaining their inalienable rights in their homeland. The two countries reaffirmed their absolute support and backing for the struggle of the Palestinian resistance movement to regain the rights of the Palestinian people.

This came in a joint statement released today on Cuban Foreign Relations Minister Isodoro Malmierca's visit to Iraq, which ended last Saturday, and the talks he held with Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi.

In the joint statement, the two sides affirmed their support for the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism, and for national independence and total sovereignty over their countries and natural resources. They reaffirmed their support for the African liberation movements--particularly the South-West African People's Organization in Namibia, the Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe and the African National Congress in South Africa--in their just struggle against racist regimes in Africa.

Both sides proclaimed a special interest in the problems of the developing countries. They affirmed the necessity of exerting active efforts to apply the resolutions of the UN General Assembly extraordinary sessions dealing with the establishment of a new and fairer world economic system in international relations. They denounced the embargo imposed by U.S. imperialism against Cuba and called for the restoration of the Guantanamo base to the Cuban people.

On the situation in the Latin American countries, the statement says that the two sides noted with satisfaction the positive changes and transformations which have taken place on the continent. They announced their support for the peoples of Latin America for the exploitation of their natural resources and for their struggle against multinational companies and foreign domination. They condemned the practices of the military clique in Chile against the Chilean masses.

Both sides stressed their concern for the success of the UN General Assembly special session on disarmament for the sake of comprehensive and total world peace. They also proclaimed their support for making the Indian Ocean and its natural extensions an area of peace devoid of external influences and imperialist bases in the interests of the area and all its peoples.

The statement announces the agreement of both sides on total cooperation to insure the success of the nonalined conferences, particularly the ministerial conference of the nonalined coordination bureau scheduled to be held in Kabul in May, the nonalined foreign ministers' conference to be held in Belgrade in July and the nonalined summit conference scheduled to be held in Havana in 1979. Both sides also proclaimed their agreement on the necessity of taking the required steps to increase the efficacy and advancement of the nonalined movement in accordance with its noble objectives which have contributed and are still contributing to the support of peoples' struggle for liberation and independence and to the development of international cooperation and world peace based on justice. In this regard the Cuban side supported Iraq's anticipation of the seventh nonalined summit conference to be held in Baghdad in 1982.

The statement refers to the talks held between the foreign ministers of the two countries on bilateral relations, the international situation and the nonalined movement. The statement says that the talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship, amity and frankness.

The statement further says that both sides noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the development of bilateral relations. They affirmed their determination to strengthen comprehensive cooperation and consolidate friendship between the Iraqi and Cuban peoples.

The statement notes the Cuban foreign relations minister's admiration and appreciation of the progress made by Iraq in all fields under the leadership of the Ba'th Party, and of its prominent and positive role in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racism and racial discrimination. The statement also contains the Iraqi foreign minister's admiration of the transformation in Cuba under the leadership of the Cuban Communist Party headed by Fidel Castro.

Malmierca began his 5-day official visit to Iraq on Wednesday during which he met with Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council. He also held talks with his Iraqi counterpart, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and extended an invitation to him to visit Cuba. The date of the visit will be set later.

AL-BAKR RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM MONGOLIAN LEADER

JN2311051 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 March--President Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr today received a written message from Yumjaagiyn Tsedenbal, chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural of the Mongolian People's Republic, on the existing relations between the two friendly countries and means of developing them. The message was delivered by Jambalyn Bandzar, Mongolian assistant minister of foreign affairs and personal envoy. Attending the meeting were foreign minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and the Mongolian Ambassador to Iraq.

Ma'ruf Receives Bandzar

JN2311064 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 March--Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf received this morning Jambalyn Bandzar, Mongolian assistant minister of foreign affairs and who is currently visiting Iraq. During the meeting they reviewed cooperation between the two countries and means of developing it. The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd al-Malik al-Yasin and the Mongolian Ambassador to Iraq.

Statement Issued

JN2414507 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 24 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 March--Iraq and the Mongolian People's Republic have condemned the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon and described it as having exposed once again the expansionist nature of the Zionist policy, particularly Israel's intention to liquidate the Palestinian resistance movement.

This came in a press statement on the results of the visit to Iraq by Jambalyn Bandzar, Mongolian assistant minister of foreign affairs, which ended today.

The statement says that the Mongolian side believes that the capitulatory policy of concluding deals with the Zionist enemy is leading to a dangerous rift in Arab ranks and removing the prospects of a just and lasting peace in the Arab area.

The two sides express their deep anxiety over the continuing tension in the region, which has resulted directly from the Zionist policy of aggression. The Mongolian side expresses the conviction that the unity of the Arab countries' stands, based on their opposition to colonialism, and the necessity to strengthen their cordial relations with their real allies, particularly the progressive and socialist countries, will be especially important to their opposition against imperialist projects and Zionist conspiracies in the Arab area. The statement also stresses that no real and lasting peace can be realized in the Arab area without the complete withdrawal of Zionist forces from the occupied Arab territories and the guaranteeing of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination.

The Mongolian side further declares its total support for Iraq's position on the issue of achieving a comprehensive disarmament, including nuclear weapons disarmament. The Mongolian side also stresses the necessity to adopt speedy measures in this field and also stresses that the forthcoming UN General Assembly meeting to discuss the issue of disarmament will be an important step in this direction and will help to prepare for an international conference on disarmament. The Mongolian side also declares its support for Iraq's position condemning the U.S. policy on production of the neutron bomb, and on Iraq's call to the U.S. Government to stop its inhuman plans for the production of this kind of bomb, which will lead to a new and dangerous round in the arms race and thus will threaten world peace.

The two sides stress their agreement on the necessity to strengthen and widen the process of reducing tension throughout the world, including the Asian continent, to which the two countries belong. They also agree on the necessity for the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea so as to help achieve the peaceful unity of Korea which serves the interests and aspirations of the Korean people.

On the issue of the nonalined movement, the Mongolian side praises Iraq's firm belief in the importance and benefit of this movement in the interest of all the peoples of the world and the role the nonalined countries are playing to develop world peace and cooperation. The two sides stress the necessity to support the just struggle of the peoples of southern Africa against imperialism, colonialism, racism and apartheid. They also stress the necessity to transfer power completely to the Zimbabwe people and guarantee Namibia's independence.

At the beginning of their press statement, the two sides express their determination to continue developing relations of friendship and cooperation between the Mongolian People's Republic and the Iraqi Republic in the interest of their two peoples.

The Mongolian delegation, led by Jambalyn Bandzar, assistant minister of foreign affairs, began an official visit to Iraq last Wednesday. During the visit, the members of the delegation met with President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and delivered to him a cordial message from YumJaagiyn Tsedenbal, chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural. The members of the delegation also met with Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, vice president; and Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, foreign minister, to whom they handed an invitation from Magalyn Dugersuren, Mongolian minister of foreign affairs, to visit Mongolia.

PRESS GROUP PROTESTS CAPTURE OF PALESTINIANS

JN291005Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0914 GMT 29 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 29 March--The Iraqi press association has appealed to the Secretariat of the International Organization of Journalists to intercede for the release of Palestinian journalists Mustapha Nasir and 'Abd al-Hafiz Asmar, apprehended by the forces of the invading Zionist enemy during their treacherous aggression against southern Lebanon.

This came in a cable sent by the association to Jiri Kubka, secretary general of the International Organization of Journalists, in which the association says that it joins its voice to that of the General Union of Palestinian Journalists and writers in appealing to the world's democratic and progressive press organizations to declare their anger and condemnation at the criminal act perpetrated by the Zionist enemy and to request the immediate release of the journalists.

PROCESSIONS STAGED IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS

JN261540Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 March--The wave of fury and indignation against the treacherous Zionist aggression on southern Lebanon has continued throughout Iraqi districts. Huge crowds from various popular sectors have staged processions announcing their preparedness to participate in the fighting alongside the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian resistance to liberate the occupied areas.

Hundreds of citizens have submitted applications volunteering to defend the dignity of the Arab nation at the various centers which have been opened in the aftermath of the Zionist aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian Arab peoples. Hundreds of citizens have also contributed blood to rescue those wounded by the aggression.

SPANISH EDUCATION MINISTER MEETS WITH OFFICIALS

JN251437Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1304 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 March--Inigo Lataillade Cavero, Spanish minister of education, met here this morning with the ministers of information and of culture and arts. The Spanish minister discussed with Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, minister of information, relations between the two countries in the sphere of information and the means to develop them. In another meeting with Karim Mahmud Shintaf, minister of culture and arts, the Spanish minister discussed cultural and artistic relations between the two countries and the means to develop cooperation in the area.

Meeting With Education Minister

JN251857Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1736 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 March--Muhammad Mahjub, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and minister of education, met here this evening with Inigo Cavero Lataillade, Spanish minister of education, and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting Mahjub praised Spain's positive and firm stand toward the Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian cause. He also explained the aspects of educational development in Iraq. Cavero praised the historic ties between the Arab and Spanish peoples and reaffirmed his country's readiness to develop cultural and educational cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Cooperation Program Signed

JN252036Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 March--This evening in Baghdad Iraq and Spain signed a program for implementing cooperation over the next 2 years. The program covers the means to encourage the development of cultural relations between the two countries; the allotment of fellowships to researchers and students of both countries; the exchange of expertise and teachers in the spheres of culture, education and science; the exchange of archeological missions, sports and cultural teams, documentaries and newsfiles; and the organization of film festivals.

The program also stipulates the formation of a joint committee to meet alternately in the capitals of the two countries to study and conclude a special protocol on equating school and university diplomas and degrees in Iraq and Spain. The implementation program was signed for Iraq by 'Adnan Husayn, RCC member, minister of planning and acting minister of higher education and scientific research. It was signed for Spain by Inigo Cavero Lataillade, minister of education. In speeches exchanged on the occasion, the two ministers affirmed that the program is an advanced step toward developing relations between Iraq and Spain.

Meeting With Saddam Husayn

JN261915Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 26 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 March--RCC Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn has received a letter from Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez. The letter was delivered by Spanish education minister Inigo Cavero when he met with Saddam Husayn here this evening. Cavero conveyed to Saddam Husayn the greetings of Prime Minister Suarez as well as his personal wishes for his health and happiness and further progress and prosperity for the Iraqi people. Saddam Husayn asked Cavero to convey his greetings and best wishes for the good health of Prime Minister Suarez and progress and prosperity for the friendly Spanish people.

Saddam Husayn and Cavero reviewed aspects of the cooperation and the relations of friendship prevailing between the two countries and the means to develop them for the service and benefit of Iraq and Spain. The meeting was attended by 'Adnan Husayn, RCC member, minister of planning and acting minister of higher education and scientific research, and the Spanish ambassador in Baghdad.

Spanish Delegation Leaves

JN270912Y Baghdad INA in Arabic GMT 27 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 March--Inigo Cavero Lataillade, Spanish minister of education, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today after an 8-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, Cavero conveyed a written message to Saddam Husayn, RCC vice chairman, from Adolfo Suarez, Spanish prime minister, on relations between the two friendly countries. He also held talks with 'Adnan Husayn, RCC member and minister of planning and acting minister of higher education and scientific research. Discussions dealt with the development of bilateral cultural cooperation. In a press statement, Cavero expressed his satisfaction at the results of his visit and praised the comprehensive progress achieved by Iraq in all spheres. He also stated that the two countries signed a program for implementing cooperation over the next 2 years.

DELEGATION OF BULGARIAN PEACE COMMITTEE ARRIVES

JN271750Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 March--Georgi Dimitrov Goskin, president of the Bulgarian National Committee for the Defense of Peace, this evening arrived in Baghdad for a visit to Iraq in response to an invitation from the Iraqi National Council for Peace and Solidarity. Dimitrov-Goshkin said that his visit to Iraq is one of the bilateral meetings between the officials of the peace movements in the two friendly countries aimed at serving the interests of the two peoples. He affirmed that these meetings will contribute to strengthening cohesion and joint action for the sake of world peace and for the sake of further advancing relations between our two countries.

Speaking about the successes achieved in Iraq, Dimitrov-Goshkin said that the Bulgarian people "have followed up with great satisfaction the steps of the Iraqi leadership from the beginning as well as its struggle on the path of independent economic, cultural and political development."

The Bulgarian guest said that good relations link us with the National Council of Peace and Solidarity in Iraq. These relations have been positively manifested during our meetings in the international symposiums of the world peace movements with the aim of serving the crucial Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian issue.

Dimitrov-Goshkin reaffirmed the stand of the Bulgarian peace movement toward the settlements being established in order to liquidate the Palestinian issue. He said: Any solution of this central issue cannot take place [words indistinct]. He strongly condemned the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon and announced the absolute solidarity of the Bulgarian peace movement with the just Palestinian cause. He said our view of the solution of this problem is based on the full liberation of the occupied Arab areas and the full recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's rights to establish their homeland.

Talks With Delegation Begin

JN281215Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 March--A delegation of the Bulgarian National Committee for the Defense of Peace, headed by Georgi Dimitrov-Goshkin, met here today with a delegation of the Iraqi National Peace and Solidarity Council headed by 'Abd al-Fattan al-Yasin, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and of the Peace Council Presidium.

Al-Yasin outlined to the Bulgarian delegation the current Arab situation, the dimensions of the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon and the Iraqi stand on that, as well as Iraqi support for the Palestinian resistance, the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and Arab and world national liberation movements.

Al-Yasin explained that world peace will remain in jeopardy as long as the Zionist entity continues to follow the policy of expansion and aggression. Al-Yasin added that events in the Arab region are taking place in accordance with a plan in which several sides from inside and outside the region are participating.

Dimitrov-Goshkin stressed the need for the Zionist enemy's withdrawal from all the occupied territories and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people, especially their right to self-determination. Dimitrov-Goshkin said the Palestinian people are fighting for their rights and homeland through armed struggle "and they are right."

Dimitrov-Goshkin said that the world peace movement is currently carrying out a large-scale campaign against the American government to prevent it from producing the neutron bomb, which is directly aimed at human life.

AFGAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN251832Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 March--Wahid Abdollah, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, arrived here this evening at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraq lasting several days. Abdollah stated that he will discuss with Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi minister of foreign affairs, the topics on the agenda of the meeting of the Coordination Bureau of the nonalined foreign ministers scheduled to begin in the Afgan capital on 6 April.

Meets With Hammadi

JN261055Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 26 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar--The Iraqi and Afgan foreign ministers today held a meeting and discussed matters pertaining to the nonalinement movement and the preparations being mad for the meeting of the coordination office to te held in Kabul in May [as received].

Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and Wahid Abdollah exchanged views on the important issues expected to be submitted to the forthcoming meetings of the nonalinement movement and Iraq's and Afghanistan's attitude concerning such issues. The two ministers also agreed to consolidate cooperation between the two countries in all domains.

AL-MURABITUN DELEGATION MEETS WITH PRESIDENT

JN281534Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 28 March--A delegation representing the Independent Nasirite-Al-Murabitun Movement today held a meeting with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis. Dr Samir Sabbagh, a member of the delegation, said after the meeting that the Lebanese State must assume its responsibilities in facing the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon. He added that the Lebanese people have become worried because of the enemy's procrastination on the issue of withdrawal and because of the terms laid down by the enemy which will perpetuate its occupation of the south. In conclusion Dr Sabbagh urged the Lebanese Government to rush to the aid of the refugees and to hasten the release of the Arab aid which has been sent to help the refugees.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS HOLDS TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

Meets PLO Representative

NC290820Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At 0730 today Prime Minister al-Huss held a 90-minute meeting with Basil 'Aql, permanent PLO representative at the United Nations. The meeting was attended by Hani Salam. They discussed developments in the south, especially developments related to implementation of the UN Security Council resolution. Answering a question after the meeting, Basil 'Aql said that it was a meeting for consultation on current affairs.

Denies French Contingent Complaint

NC281222Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1155 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Text] After meeting with President Sarkis today, Prime Minister al-Huss said everything is proceeding normally. Answering a question regarding a French complaint about provocation of the French contingent in the south, he said: Nothing has been reported to us in this respect. I met in Tyre with the commander of the French contingent. They do not have any particular complaint. On his assessment of the general atmosphere after his visit to the south yesterday, Prime Minister al-Huss said: We are holding contacts with all the government departments in order to reactivate these departments in the south and restore normal services in that area. We hope that there will be tangible results on this matter soon. On his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat yesterday, the prime minister said: A positive atmosphere pervaded the talks and the [Palestinian] resistance has shown willingness to facilitate the task.

Meets With Norwegian Ambassador

NC281334Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met this morning with the Norwegian ambassador to Lebanon and reviewed developments in the south on the occasion of the arrival of the vanguard of the Norwegian force which is participating in the UN emergency force.

NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH OFFICIALS

NC281336Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] The arrival and stationing of the UN peace force in Lebanon today figured prominently in the activities at the Ministry of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs, along with talks on international aid to the evacuees.

The secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Shaykh Najib ad-Dahdah, met this morning with the Norwegian ambassador to Lebanon, Mr Ibsen, who was accompanied by the embassy's first secretary. The director of political affairs, Dr 'Adil Isma'il, also met with the ambassador. Both visits dealt with the arrival of the Norwegian force in Lebanon. The Norwegian ambassador said the talks dealt with coordination between the Lebanese specialized organs and the Norwegian force. He added that three Norwegian planes arrived at Beirut International Airport with equipment for the force this morning, and that the bulk of their equipment will arrive in Beirut on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. He explained that the members of this force have completed their compulsory military service in Norway and are volunteers who have placed themselves at the disposal of the United Nations.

The secretary general of the Foreign Ministry then met with Lebanese Ambassador to France Dr Najib Sadaqah and Lebanese Ambassador to Iran Khalil al-Khalil and reviewed with each the situation in the south as well as French and Iranian aid to Lebanon.

NATIONALIST MOVEMENT TO ISSUE STATEMENT 29 MARCH

JN2821247 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The Central Political Council of the Lebanese Progressive Parties and Forces today (?endorsed) a statement that will be issued tomorrow. The statement includes the general stand of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement toward the developments in Lebanon. At a meeting this evening the Central Council discussed the military and political developments as a result of the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon and the combat and political plans being pursued. It also discussed the Zionist enemy's behavior, the plan being carried out by the UN emergency force, the role played by the rightist forces in Lebanon, the significance of the moves made by the reactionary circles and the course of action of the Nationalist Movement to confront these developments.

UN SPOKESMAN REPORTS SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN2910037 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0937 GMT 29 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 29 March--A spokesman for the United Nations Information Office has stated that calm is prevailing in southern Leganon and that no cease-fire violations occurred during all of last night. He added: The deployment of the UN interim force so far adhered to the cease-fire, which was strengthened by the declaration by Yasir 'Arafat, Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee chairman, about his readiness to ease the task of the UN international forces. The spokesman added that 75 additional French soldiers arrived this morning to join the French contingent working with these forces.

An Iranian contingent took positions at the Qa'qa'iyat Bridge and Swedish forces at the Al-Khardali Bridge. It was also agreed between the joint forces and the UN interim force in Lebanon that a position for a French force be set up 500 meters south of the Al-Qasimiyah Bridge. The French force took over the position at dawn today.

DETERRENT FORCES TO COLLECT ARMS FROM ALL PARTIES

NC290924Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0850 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 29 March--In a dispatch from Beirut citing Lebanese Parliamentary Defense Committee sources, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS says today that within a month the Arab deterrent forces will begin collecting heavy and medium-caliber arms from all parties, including the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese militia. The paper adds that the deterrent forces will determine the quantity of light arms which the popular militia and the Palestinian armed struggle command will be allowed to keep in the camps, and that all means, including armed force, will be used to insure implementation of this step.

UN COMMANDER HOLDS TALKS WITH YASIR 'ARAFAT

NC281627Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The commander of the UN forces in Lebanon, Major General Erskine, held a series of meetings with senior UN officers and personnel in Beirut, with the PLO leader and with the commander of the Lebanese Army, Staff Col Victor Khuri. Major General Erskine arrived in Beirut today and was scheduled to go back to Jerusalem this afternoon.

Disagreement Reported

NC281836Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] UNIFIL Commander Maj Gen Emmanuel Erskine has failed to get the PLO to agree to withdraw from positions in the south in order to deploy UN forces there.

At noon today Major General Erskine held a lengthy meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in an attempt to convince him to facilitate the implementation of the Security Council resolutions. But 'Arafat linked a withdrawal from the south with Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This means that the PLO is using southern Lebanon as a trump card for political blackmail and military pressure in order to insure that changes are made in the Middle East peace plan.

According to an informed source, 'Arafat told Erskine: We will not put down our weapons in the south before knowing the future of the West Bank. Following the meeting in an attempt to evade the Palestinian resistance's responsibility, 'Arafat said that he has promised the UNIFIL commander to facilitate the implementation of the Security Council resolution within the limits of the PLO's capabilities. 'Arafat added that he also wants to facilitate the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanese territory out of his alleged concern about Lebanon.

Major General Erskine has held positive talks with Lebanese Army Commander Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri with the aim of strengthening cooperation between the regular Lebanese forces and the UN forces.

Major General Erskine left Beirut for Israel this afternoon to convey the results of his talks with the Lebanese authorities and the PLO.

Further Report

NC281840Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Text] During their meeting today, the PLO leader informed the commander of the UN forces in the south, Major General Erskine, that the organization is providing all facilities which will enable the UN forces to carry out their mission in Lebanon. He said: We are doing everything possible within our means. He also said that the organization is doing this for the sake of insuring the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon for which we care very much.

UN FORCES TAKE UP POSITIONS; FIRING REPORTED

NC290747Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] This morning the French UN contingent will take up position about half a kilometer south of Al-Qasimiyah Bridge. The Swedish contingent will be stationed on Al-Khardali Bridge in view of its military importance, according to the commander of the Swedish forces. It has been reported from Tyre that the French forces have assumed regular patrol duties in the city and its outskirts. The Lebanese flag has been raised on the government house in Tyre. More citizens are leaving the city for Sidon and Beirut following the Israeli threats against the Palestinians.

A U.S. officer has visited the military barracks in Tyre. He arrived via An-Naqurah in a Jeep accompanied by three military vehicles. He met with the commander of the French forces. After the meeting the French forces moved to the buffer zone between the Israeli forces and the fedayeen near Burj Rahhal. The force followed a side road at the (Qubnus)-Jiwar an-Nahl intersection to avoid the main road and passage through Al-Qasimiyah area. Some members of the French force joined another unit which took up a position in the area and raised the UN flag. Other French units have consolidated their positions between (Al-Haddiyah) and Al-Hinniyah on the An-Naqurah road and between Al-Hawsh and 'Ayn B'al.

A French force using three Jeeps patrolled the empty streets in Tyre. Tension mounted when firing was heard and Israeli planes appeared above Tyre while UN soldiers were setting up artillery emplacements in nearby hills. Citizens are refusing to return to An-Nabatiyah before the army or the United Nations or the Arab deterrent forces arrive in the city. An-Nabatiyah Square was empty yesterday and traffic was at a standstill except for vehicles carrying evacuees. There are reports that the people go to shelters whenever they hear artillery fire. There are also reports that the situation was relatively clam yesterday but that sporadic explosions and machinegun fire were heard, particularly in An-Nabatiyah and Tyre areas.

JOINT FORCES KILL SOLDIERS, DESTROY VEHICLES

JN281954Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1933 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 28 March--The joint forces have destroyed two enemy vehicles and killed a number of enemy soldiers in the central sector of southern Lebanon. A spokesman of the central command of the joint forces announced this evening that the joint forces' fighter groups attacked 5 enemy vehicles with rockets and plastic bombs [al-qanabil al-lasiqah] as they passed near Day Mimas toward Jisr al-Khardali. The attack destroyed two vehicles and killed a number of enemy soldiers. The spokesman said that one joint forces fighter was wounded in the attack.

IRAQI TRUCKS ARRIVE IN LEBANESE VILLAGE

NC281306Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Eyewitnesses arriving today from the village of Lib'a in Jazzin district said that 10 trucks carrying Iraqi license tags arrived in the village yesterday and unloaded their cargo of weapons for the Palestinian organizations. It is recalled that these trucks came to Lebanon overland at a time when some quarters were issuing a statement warning against the continued flow of weapons and armed men into the south. These quarters said that the necessary measures had been taken to prevent this.

MINE KILLS SWEDISH SOLDIER, WOUNDS ANOTHER

TA290923Y Paris AFP in English 0920 GMT 29 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Stockholm, March 29 (AFP)--An antitank mine killed a Swedish soldier in southern Lebanon early today and wounded another critically, the Swedish News Agency T.T. [NEWSPAPERS TELEGRAPH AGENCY] reported. The explosion was near Al-Khardali Bridge over the Litani River where the Swedish contingent to the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) took up positions yesterday.

INTENTIONAL DESTRUCTION OF PIPELINE DENIED

NC290738Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 29 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Oil circles in Az-Zahrani have denied that the pipeline was blown up or set on fire in Syrian territory at a point 3 km from the cease-fire line in the Golan. Israeli reports said that the pipeline was blown up yesterday. An eyewitness said that he saw high flames and columns of smoke in the area. The Israelis say that they saw some American maintenance workers rushing to the scene of the fire.

EIGHT PALESTINIANS REPORTEDLY KILLED IN SOUTH

NC281251Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Today, after dismantling a number of mines, a Swedish UN force took up positions on the Al-Khardali Bridge, located between 'Arnun and Al-Qa'qiyah Bridge. News agency correspondents say that the Swedish force came under Palestinian fire. A clash then took place between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli forces, during which eight Palestinians were killed, according to official reports.

Meanwhile, another Swedish force advanced toward Rashayya al-Fukhkhar to take up positions there, in preparation for taking positions later on in Kafr Hamam, Kafr Shuba and Shab'a.

KHULAYFAWI, KHADDAM ADDRESS CABINET MEETING

JN2814O1Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--The cabinet met at 1300 today under Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, who spoke at the beginning of the session andsaid that the government has cooperated as a working group for more than 1 and 1/2 years and has faced the tasks entrusted to it with full responsibility.

Major General Khulayfawi added: Despite the difficulties that face development and its processes in a developing country like ours, the government has managed to achieve considerable accomplishments in implementing the decisions of the party conferences and the instructions of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Major General Khulayfawi then expressed confidence that the government which will be formed by Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi will continue to implement the tasks of development in harmony with the new phase in our country. Khulayfawi then wished Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi every success in his mission and expressed the same desire to the cabinet members.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam then spoke on behalf of the ministers and thanked Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi for the efforts he exerted during his term of office, efforts which came at an important stage in our country's development. He also thanked Khulayfawi on behalf of the regional command for efforts he had exerted and wished him success in his party tasks.

ATH-THAWRAH CRITICIZES CALL FOR ARAB SUMMIT

JN250717Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Under the headline "The Required Arab Solidarity," the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH carries a commentary criticizing those who call for an Arab summit conference to settle differences, overlooking, at the same time, the principal causes of these differences--which in fact result from the capitulatory course As-Sadat has and still is pursuing despite all the evidence showing the failure of this policy to alter the enemy, his arrogance and persistence in keeping the occupied Arab territories and his denial of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Pointing out Syria's stand toward the call for holding the summit conference, the paper says: After the recent Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon and the Israeli occupation of additional Arab territories, the tune of Arab solidarity is being heard anew, and certain sides have started to demand an Arab summit conference to settle the differences and to adopt a unified stand toward current events in the area.

Syria has again and again declared its keenness on Arab solidarity. Syria is constantly working to strengthen the unity of the Arab ranks concerning the fateful issues which are aimed against all countries without exception and are also aimed at subjugating and humiliating the Arabs and wiping out their steadfastness and resistance.

Syria, however, while listening to the tunes now being played by certain sources, realizes the objectives, dimensions, motives and causes of these tunes which are confined, first and foremost, to bringing about reconciliation with the Egyptian regime and rescuing it from its isolation, particularly since it has failed to achieve its demands--though small and humble--and after the Israelis have clearly and frankly insisted on keeping the occupied Arab territories, setting up new settlements and continuing their intransigence with regard to any formula to preserve the Palestinian charter and to enable them to determine their future.

The paper adds: As we see the initiation of the implementation of the first steps of the As-Sadat-Zionist-U.S. plot, we must question the usefulness of solidarity with those who will be concluding a separate reconciliation [sulh] with the enemy and those who have flouted Arab unanimity, betrayed the cause, gone against Arab resolutions, abandoned Palestinian rights and even condemned a legitimate fedayeen operation while keeping silent about a new aggression against and invasion of more Arab territories.

In conclusion, the paper says that Arab solidarity, as we and all the Arab understand it, means consultation, keenness on collective stands and joint action, particularly in matters pertaining to the Arab cause, its battle and fate.

ALGERIA

BOUTEFLIKA RECEIVES USSR AMBASSADOR, UK OFFICIAL

LD282356Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Minister Bouteflika received the Soviet ambassador to Algeria who handed him, within the framework of relations of consultation and friendship between the two countries, a review from his government relating to the situation in the Arab world--both the Arab east and the Maghreb. Following this, talks were held in which views were exchanged on international questions, and the determination of both countries was underlined regarding the strengthening of the relations of friendship and solidarity. The foreign minister also received Frank Judd, the British minister of state at the Foreign Office and studied with him in depth the possibility of strengthening cooperation between Algeria and Britain. Views were also exchanged on international questions of common interest. Judd was earlier received by President Boumediene.

TALKS WITH BRITISH DELEGATION OPEN IN ALGIERS

LD281902Y Algiers APS in French 1400 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The political talks between the British delegation led by Frank Judd, the minister of state at the British Foreign Office, and the Algerian delegation led by Maysum Subayh, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, began in Algiers today. These talks were also attended by the British ambassador in Algeria and the Algerian ambassador in London. These talks dealt basically with the questions of the Middle East and Africa, particularly Western Sahara and the Horn of Africa and the southern continent, especially the present situation in Zimbabwe and Namibia. Al-Akhdar Barahimi, the Algerian ambassador, and Richard Stanley Faber, the British ambassador took part in the discussions.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI SPEAKS ON LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN TIES

LD282328Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1313 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Speech by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, chairman of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, delivered on 28 March at the celebrations in Tubruk to mark the eighth anniversary of the end of the British presence in Libya]

[Excerpts] Brothers: War between Arabs is a dirty war which we would not start. It would be a national treachery against this nation. It would only serve as an opportunity for the real enemy of the Arab nation to extend all its fronts, to entrench its colonialism in Egypt's Sinai, Syria's Golan and the southern part of Arab Lebanon, to swallow the whole of Palestine and to try again to annihilate the Palestinian people [words indistinct]. War between Arabs would be a national treachery. It would be a dirty war. But if this war between the Arabs (?raised the prestige) of the Arabs and established Arab unity, then it would be a positive war. [applause] [passage indistinct] Although war was imposed upon us at one time and caused us to fight against Egypt, we, despite the fact that we crushed the aggression and taught the aggressor a lesson which caused all the reactionaries in the region to be frightened and to keep to their place and [words indistinct], regretted the war which occurred between us and our Arab brothers, especially when this was between Egyptians and Libyans. It was a treason against the Arab nation. It amounted to a material help to the enemy enabling him to impose his presence.

Indeed, when the Arab ranks were weakened and reduced to tatters and after imperialism was able to infiltrate the Arab ranks, the enemy was able to occupy southern Lebanon. This would not have been possible were it for the breakout of the Egyptian-Libyan war, the dwindling of the hope of the Egyptian-Libyan unity, the destruction of the land and air power of the Egyptian Army and the full domination by imperialism over some Arab regimes [words indistinct]. It was only then that the Israelis were able to occupy southern Lebanon very easily.

Now tens of thousands of the Israeli enemy soldiers occupy Lebanon up to the Litani River and dominate Tyre, one of the major towns in Lebanon. What have the Arabs done? They have done everything, God bless them: The Arab nation denounced this aggression with a flood of telegrams. The Arab rulers used strong Arab expressions in their protests. Telegrams were showered on the Palestinian people, denouncing the aggression. Is this not a farce? Here we have the Arabs acting as spectators and the Arab armies are deep in their slumber while the enemy is slaughtering the Palestinian people and occupying a big slice of an independent Arab state. The Arab reaction is translated in telegrams, denunciation and protest. Is this not a farce? Does this not deserve a comic ode to be written about it? Yes, this phase of the Arab nation, this phase of decline, submission and humiliation is a farce. The Arab nation has now turned into a nation of sheep. [Audience chants "Palestine is Arab."] Palestine is Arab not by words, not by words.

There were demonstrations, protests and telegrams while the enemy was advancing in full strength to occupy the land and wipe out the Palestinian people and while the Arabs, from the gulf to the Atlantic Ocean, acclaimed that Palestine is Arab. If Palestine is Arab, its Arab character should be confirmed with blood and force of arms. What are the forces of shame doing in Lebanon, I mean the so-called deterrent forces? In front of these forces the Palestinian and Lebanese people are being slaughtered; it is a mass slaughter by the Jews in southern Lebanon against the Palestinian and Lebanese people while the deterrent forces of shame stand as spectators. They are forces to deter the Palestinians, not the enemies.

The Arabs possess more than 1 million soldiers, more than 1,000 aircraft and more than 5,000 tanks. But shame on these forces in front of which Arab land is being invaded and the defenseless Palestinian people are terrorized without making a move. For what were these armies formed and for what were these tanks, aircraft and guns bought if they would not be used in defense of Arab honor and Arab land?

Brothers, it is this shame which makes us forget what exists between us and Egypt and to consider matters between us as side issues in spite of the wounds they had caused. Brothers, the Arab nation does not need us to flex our muscles at each other. The Arab nation is faced with a real enemy who wants to establish a Jewish, Zionist empire on the remains of Arab nationalism.

Events confirm that the Israelis are engaged on their task to achieve their greater state extending from the Euphrates to the Nile. They have exploited As-Sadat's visit, all the peace talks, the United Nations, the Geneva talks and every possible means to advance stage by stage toward their prescribed objective; the establishment of greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile as a first stage. The final stage will mean the disappearance of Arab nationalism, giving way to Jewish nationalism. This is the danger which is threatening the Arab nation, and unfortunately we are encouraging it with our policies of defeatism, subservience, fear and renegation. It is we Arabs ourselves who are making it possible for the enemy.

However, it is not impossible for the Arab nation to attain a solution. It possesses enough potential to enable it to act and to repel the enemy. In this hour I do not indulge in invectives against others as Arab rulers are adept at doing. Nor do I want to present a review of the disgraceful and tragic situation in which the Arab nation finds itself at present. But we are ready to face our destiny. If we had to die standing on our feet, we would not do so by licking the boots of the imperialists who occupy Arab land or by meekly begging them to depart from our land. Down with the solution and life which stem from this treacherous and disgraceful path, the path of solicitude and of licking the boots of the Americans and Israelis.

About 2 or 3 days ago the Egyptian newspapers on orders of the Egyptian Government invited the Jamahiriyah, Algeria, the PDRY, Syria and Iraq to come and meet with Egypt in order to make sure of a real peace. Otherwise they will have to establish a joint military command and prepare for war.

This is great. Peace is impossible with this enemy. As-Sadat himself has become sure that peace is impossible with this enemy to which As-Sadat has given everything. He conceded everything, even his dignity. He landed at Ben Gurion Airport and recognized Jerusalem as their capital. Even the Americans have not recognized Jerusalem as an Israeli capital. An Arab has done this. He gave concessions and despite this they told him no. They are remaining in Sinai forever because they still want the Nile as a frontier. Afterward, they showed that they were on their way to the Litani River so that their frontier with Lebanon will be there at this time. They did not talk about the Golan where they remain and which they considered vital for defending the occupied soil. They told him: You have come and this is our opinion. We will not change and the rest of the Arabs should follow your example and come to Jerusalem so that the swearing of loyalty to the Zionist enemy may be completed. Thus the deal is completed by the Zionist enemy in Jerusalem.

The Israelis told As-Sadat: You have come and now Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn should also come. What does this mean? It means: You are finished; we have you in our pocket. The story is at an end. The rest must surrender and make the terrorist Begin the ruler of the Middle East, the Aleksander of the 20th-century Middle East, the 20th-century Napoleon in the Middle East, the 20th-century Hitler of the Middle East, and the 20th-century Genkis Khan of the Middle East. It means that the terrorist Begin, the filthy, the swine Begin wants the Arabs to swear allegiance to him and hand the banner over to him as the only man in the Middle East. But as for the rest, they are half men or even less. This is what he said and this is the Arab nation's interpretation of the talks which took place between the enemy and Egypt.

But as long as peace is impossible As-Sadat must be 100 percent certain that peace is impossible, that the visit was out of place and was an historic mistake which helped to strengthen the enemy's right to Arab soil, and that weakened the right of the Arab nation to Palestine and what surrounds it. This is the historic political result of this visit. As long as peace is impossible, a real solution (?is possible), at least a solution in the positive direction, namely, a joint military command and preparing for war. This is the road and there is no other road except this road.

Despite all this I say today from Tubruk, which was unsuccessfull; attacked by the Egyptian Army, to Brig Abu Bakr Yunis, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, who is next to me here, that I can take the responsibility and issue the order today to Brig Abu Bakr to go to As-Sallum to meet with the commander in chief of the Egyptian armed forces if the purpose of the meeting is to unite the Libyan and Egyptian Army against the common e nemy, to strengthen the Arab nation in the face of the Israelis and their allies, to promote liberation, to wipe out the dishonor which has fallen upon the Arab nation, to uphold Arab dignity, to prepare the liberation of Arab soil [words indistinct] the Arab nation has become a flock of sheep. Despite the revengeful differences between ourselves and the Egyptian Army; between us and the Egyptian rulers; between Abu Bakr Yunis, Libyan commander in chief; and the commander in chief of the Egyptian armed forces, my cousin and I will stick together against the outsider. And despite all this we are ready to forget all our differences and rise up above all these wounds which were inflicted on us by our brothers.

After this the Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir base would be prepared not to destroy the Egyptian Army, as happened before, but to take part side by side with the Barrani Airport and the Matruh base and the Jiyanklis base, which was defiled by the Israeli defense minister. To liberate the Sinai, the Libyan pilots are prepared, then, to fly over Egyptian soil, not to destroy the Egyptian bases or the Egyptian Army, but to be side by side with the Egyptian pilots in protecting Egyptian bases and in striking the colonialist bases in Sinai and occupied Palestine. [applause]

This is the only Arab reunion possible. This is the only Arab reunion possible. [repeated sentence as heard] Any other Arab reunion whose aim is different from this or whose road is different from this is rejected. It is rejected at the pan-Arab level. It is rejected at the masses level, even if it were approved by the rulers. The only Arab reunion desired is that which I have just explained. The masses reject an Arab meeting around American plans, or a meeting at the table of surrender, or a meeting at the table of subservience, or a meeting to lick the boots of the Israeli colonialists and beg the American colonialists. We Arabs will not meet to discuss the American plan but they will meet to discuss an Arab plan. But this will not be an Arab plan to realize the American colonialist plan or surrendering 1 inch of Palestine to the Israelis, but to meet in order to liberate Palestine and every inch outside Palestine, to meet in order to foil the American Zionist plan which is being hatched against the Arab nation to enable the Israelis to occupy the Arab soil stage after stage.

What meaning can be there in Arab solidarity if this is to be for the sake of realizing the American plan of capitulation or of applauding As-Sadat's visit? A meeting of this type is unacceptable. It would be a treason. We [word indistinct] and warn that if every Arab of (?responsibility) continued in this plan, we would ally ourselves with the Palestinian fedayeen and the Arab revolutionary forces, operating openly or clandestinely, everywhere. [Words indistinct] But we open our hearts and stretch our hands to any responsible Arab who is willing to march with us on the road of liberation and of freeing the Arab nation from affront and shame brought about by the policies of defeatism, deviation, despondency, surrender and submission. The Arab nation, strong with all its potentials, does not need these policies. This is the desired Arab position. Anything else is unacceptable and we shall resist it most strongly.

We (?appeal for unity) with Egypt only on the military level. [Words indistinct] Any other unity is unacceptable now because it was Egypt which led the move to recognize the enemy.

In all situations, brothers, Libya and Egypt will remain side by side forever. Political regimes are transient and rulers are mortal, only people and land remain [words indistinct] and in Libya there is no political regime, rulers or government [words indistinct]. I say to the Egyptians that the Libyans are closest to them of all the Arabs geographically and [words indistinct] the Libyan military power which was [word indistinct] by Egypt continually could have been turned into a shield for Egypt supporting the Egyptian Army.

Libyan oil, which Egypt complains is the source of strength for the Libyans, could have been a source of strength for Egypt and the Arab nation too. The vast Libyan territory with its 2 million square km which the Egyptian leadership has called "land without people" could have been a strategic depth for Egypt. Any Egyptian policy at any era which is hostile to Libya is an unsuccessful one, stupid, foolish and contrary to the vital interests of the Egyptian people above all. Libya occupies a unique position as far as Egypt is concerned.

Anyone who wishes to commit aggression against us [words indistinct], he would be met with a forest of rockets. There are land, air and naval deterrent forces. All types of forces exist, from long-range [abirat] to SAM-7. [cheers] [words indistinct] The Israelis are only 2 million, but they terrified 156 million Arabs except for the Libyan people. Anyone who still dreams of [word indistinct] we are armed people. Men, women and children are all in the army.

AT-TURAYKI COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH CHAD, SUDAN

LD2411502 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Sabha--Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki has affirmed that the Jamahiriyah will continue to devote all of its efforts, as it has in the past, to see that peace and harmony prevail in Chad, which has fraternal and neighborly relations with the Jamahiriyah. This will strengthen our relations with Chad on the basis of cooperation, mutual respect and neighborliness.

Dr at-Turayki pointed out that the Jamahiriyah will do its utmost to achieve national reconciliation within the African framework. He added that one of the results of the success achieved by the historic Sabha conference is that the shedding of African blood has ended in Chad and peace has prevailed in the interests of the people of Chad. We need every drop of blood for the liberation of our continent from the racist regimes which are linked with colonialism, and for the liberation of Palestine from the racist Zionist regime, he said.

Speaking at a press conference he held last night in the town of Al-Qahirah in Sabha, Dr 'Ali at-Turayki explained that a good spirit has prevailed during the negotiations between the Chad Government and the Chad National Liberation Front, and that the negotiations have been proceeding very well. He added that such negotiations are not easy, and we do not expect instant miracles. Nevertheless, we shall make great efforts, together with our brothers, to achieve the joint goal and help our brothers in the Chad Government and the Chad National Liberation Front. He said that there is a great hope of achieving the results which the people of Chad and all people, particularly the people of Africa who cherish peace and justice, desire to see.

The foreign secretary pointed out that the negotiations are connected with an important issue linked to the future of the people of Chad and the peoples of Africa. He said that the Jamahiriyah, proceeding from its clear principles on liberation, is prepared to make every effort for the success of these negotiations and for reaching the goal which we are seeking to achieve through these negotiations.

Dr at-Turayki explained that the morning session of the negotiations yesterday discussed the core of the issue and that there was a full response from all parties in the meeting--a fact which gives us great hopes of achieving the results we are seeking. Dr at-Turayki pointed out that the topics submitted by the national front were discussed. The question of the front's recognition, which had been dealt with by the quadripartite summit, was discussed, and just the fact that the present meeting is taking place means that the issue has been resolved. Recognition is thus inevitable.

As for the question of French presence, the leaders discussed this question and condemned all foreign intervention in the African Continent. The question of the French presence concerns the people of Chad, who alone decide with whom they want to cooperate. We as Africans do not agree to the presence of foreign forces in an African country. Moreover, this contravenemes the OAU Charter and principles of the nonalined countries to which Chad belongs.

Speaking about Arab Libyan-Sudanese relations, the foreign secretary affirmed that the recent steps taken were important steps for the strengthening of relations and the joint struggle for our pan-Arab issues and for the joint struggle in Africa against our common enemy: racism.

Dr at-Turayki pointed out that what is happening now in the Arab homeland is a conflict against Zionism, reaction and capitulation that requires from the May and Great 1 September revolutions greater efforts to achieve the aspirations of the Arab nation and achieve victory in our struggle against the enemy--Zionism and capitulation. He said that the process of the development of the good relations between the Jamahiriyah and Sudan had met difficulties from reaction, the capitulatory regimes and colonialism, but we shall continue our struggle in order to achieve our goals of standing up to colonialism and Zionism, so that we can give new drive to the Arab nation. There is great hope of achieving all of the aims and principles of both the May and Great 1 September revolutions and of liberating the land and strengthening our joint struggle for freedom and progress.

LIBYAN-SUDANESE-CHADIAN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER MEETINGS

For the Tripoli JANA account of the apparent text of a communique issued following the conclusion of meetings of the Special Committee for National Reconciliation in Chad, which were held in Sabha and in Benghazi, see the Central Africa section of the 29 March Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT.

TRIPOLI: ARAB LEADERS SHOULD NOT BACK U.S.

LD250508Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary: "The Lies of Carter and the Charlatanry of Begin"]

[Excerpt] Once more we are witnessing a trick of U.S.-Israeli differences and a trick of intra-Israeli differences. Both tricks are taking place at the same time as though they were an old play being acted out to kill time and raise false hopes of the Arabs, the pro-U.S. Arabs in the Arab area, and to justify their constant adherence to the United States.

In fact this trick, which is repeated by all U.S. presidents, is no longer acceptable to the millions of Arabs, as it was not accepted by the many friends of the Arab nation and even by those following the development of events in the Middle East. They are unanimous in saying that there is an inseverable, organic link between U.S. imperialism and the Zionist Israeli State. There is also unanimity in the view that the United States sees no contradiction or conflict between its own private ends in the Arab area and its unlimited commitment to the Zionist Israeli State. Even if such an alleged contradiction occurs, it takes place only in the minds of these Arab rulers who support U.S. policy.

Oddly enough, friends of the United States keep reminding it day and night that its interests in the area are contrary to its interests in the Zionist Israeli State. This gives the impression that some of the rulers who support the United States unconditionally want to tell us and the United States that they care more for U.S. interests than the United States does itself. Who can believe this childish play?

Statistics show that the more the United States antagonizes the Arab nation, and the more it persists in its antagonism and goes to the utmost extreme in defense of Israel and in support of it in all fields, the more U.S. interests and influence grow in the Arab world, so much so that we are now convinced that if the United States were to stop its antagonism and hostility to our Arab nation, the rulers of our Arab nation would strike at the U.S. interests in retaliation for that; that is, in retaliation for its stopping its hostility to our Arab nation. [sentence as heard] Otherwise, what is the logic and rational explanation for the growing U.S. influence and interests in the Arab area when the United States has escalated and widened its hostility toward the Arab nation?

We now revert to the myth of U.S.-Israeli rift and to decide whether it is a true rift or a mere trick exported for the benefit of the Arab friends of the United States in the area. The millions of Arabs undoubtedly recall that this trick has been repeated in the various U.S. administrations from the end of the administration of the late President Eisenhower up to this very day.

There is a great deal of talk about this farce and there are unlimited interpretations. We feel that these were prepared for export to the Arab area only to be a rich topic reported by the Arab ambassadors, the Arab press and perhaps also the European press.

The facts of the matter in the United States are completely different. In this regard we can find no explanation other than what the former Lebanese President Charles Hilu said: If the United States is stronger than Israel, Israel inside the United States is stronger than the U.S. President himself. It seems this is the truth, particularly as we see that U.S. politicians, starting with the President, down to his secretaries, aides and advisers, do not dare say anything that displeases the Zionist politicians in Israel or in the United States. Even if they should utter something that might sound like that, they soon retract it and apologize, as they are no more than ordinary employees who commit an uninternational mistake for which they ask forgiveness.

We must admit that Zionism is the political, economic, financial and cultural leadership in the United States. But we must recall also that what forced the United States to withdraw from Southeast Asia was not the agentry of the leaders in that part of the world nor the capitulation of its peoples to the U.S. will, but the legendary struggle waged by the peoples of that area and the high price they paid for U.S. interests inside and outside their countries.

When the Arab leaders change their attitude to the United States and when they grant freedom to the millions of Arab masses to deal blows against U.S. interests in the area, then and only then we will see the United States retract and pressure the Zionist Israeli State. Anything else is no more than wishful thinking and a waste of time and, consequently, the loss of rights. This is something for which the rulers of the Arab nation are directly responsible, particularly those who are in harmony and in love with the United States.

As to the U.S.-Israeli rift, it, too, is a big myth and a farce intended to mislead. We have a myriad of proofs.

SUDAN

PRESIDENT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM KING HUSAYN

JN251931Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri received today a message from His Majesty King Husayn dealing with his majesty's call for the convening of an Arab summit conference to discuss the developments in the area and to unify the Arab position in response to the fateful challenges which the Arab nation is facing. The message was delivered today by the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Khartoum. Official Sudanese sources have stated that President Numayri stressed to the Jordanian charge d'affaires that Sudan welcomes the idea of convening an Arab summit conference and that he supports any call which will help unify Arab efforts at this particular stage through which the Arab nation is passing.

MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM YAR URGING SUMMIT CONFERENCE

JN251606Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 25 March--Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, first vice president and Sudanese foreign minister, has received a letter from YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj calling for an urgent Arab summit conference to draw up an integrated and unified Arab strategy to cope with the present and future of the Arab nation. The letter was conveyed by the YAR ambassador to Sudan. In his letter to the Sudanese foreign minister, the YAR foreign minister emphasized the need to solve the problem of the diverse political stands being voiced in the Arab area.

Ar-Rashid at-Tahir informed the YAR ambassador that he will discuss the letter with 'Abdallah al-Asnaj during their presence in Cairo for the Arab League Council meetings, which are due to begin on Monday.

NUMAYRI RECEIVES SOMALI ENVOY, MAKES STATEMENT

LD251852Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] The president of the republic, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, has declared that Africa has proved its ability to overcome obstacles and meet challenges, with the firm faith of its sons, guided by the African spirit and wisdom which call for negotiations and the solving of problems through peaceful means, so as to close the road for other forces that want to infiltrate through differences between brothers. This was stated by his excellency in the speech he made this morning when receiving the credentials of Mr Yusuf Hasan Ibrahim as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Somali Democratic Republic to the Democratic Republic of Sudan.

TUNISIA

HUSAYN SENDS LETTER TO PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA

JN271949Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba today received a letter from His Majesty King Husayn. The letter was delivered by the Jordanian ambassador in Tunis. The Jordanian ambassador said that the letter deals with the current situation in southern Lebanon and the settlement of Arab differences as well as unifying the ranks of the Arab brethern.

TRADE MINISTER REVEALS 1977 TRADE DEFICIT

LD251538Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Trade Minister Slahedinne Mbarek held a press conference today in which he said that in 1977 Tunisia witnessed a growth of 15.4 percent in exports but that imports also went up, causing a deficit. However, this is a positive deficit as it involves the import of material and equipment necessary for development. Imported equipment represents 30 percent of general imports, raw materials and semimanufactured goods represent 40 percent and foodstuffs represent 12 percent.

He said Tunisia's foreign trade is sound, but measures are necessary to encourage more exports and diversify export markets. Measures are necessary also to reduce the import of materials not necessary for production or general consumption. A progressive surcharge, ranging from 5 to 30 percent, will be levied on luxury goods, including jewelry, gold, marble, large cars, spirits and fur. The surcharge goes into effect today.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR COMMUNIQUE REPORTS ATTACK ON TRAIN

LD282354Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Defense Ministry this evening issued a military communique which states that the vanguard of the Saharan resistance operating along the southern frontiers of Saharan Democratic Arab Republic attacked a train carrying enemy Mauritanian forces in the Chatt area on 25 March. The communique said that the train was immobilized by explosives which blew up the railway lines for over a distance of 200 meters and destroyed about 50 coaches in addition to all the engines. Following this, the Saharans opened fire on the Mauritanian soldiers killing about 10 and wounding others. A car loaded with ammunition exploded causing the death of five other soldiers who were guarding the train.

SAHARAN LIBERATION ARMY REPORTEDLY KILLS 16, WOUNDS 20

LD252305Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] A communique released yesterday by the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Defense Ministry indicated that on 23 March 1978, the Saharan liberation army ambushed a column of the monarchist invading army in the Agrar Akin area 30 km to the southwest of Abatir. The monarchist column was subjected to the heavy fire of the Saharan insurgents. This resulted in the killing of 16 invading troops and 20 others were injured. The insurgents have, on the other hand, destroyed 4 vehicles and a Jeep. They have also captured a quantity of weapons.

BEGIN SPEAKS TO KNESSET ON POLITICAL SITUATION

TA290913Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0816 GMT 29 Mar 78 TA

[Prime Minister Menahem Begin's statement to the Knesset opening a political debate on political developments--live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the Knesset: There are points of agreement and there are differences of opinion between the U.S. Government and the Israeli Government with respect to the nature and essence of the settlement in the Middle East. The main points that agreed on by the two governments include: peace treaties between Israel and its neighbors are required. These peace treaties will provide for total normalization of life relations between the countries in the region; borders will be open; normal diplomatic relations will be established; there will be economic, commercial and other relations.

Secondly, a state called Falastin is not to be established in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, out of an awareness that this would endanger the existence of the State of Israel and be a danger to the entire free world.

Thirdly, the organization of murderers called the PLO is not a partner to any negotiations for the making of peace in the Middle East.

I must point out that these three points of agreement are not the result of coincidence, but of standing firm and of information. It is good that we have reached agreement on these three principles.

In our peace plan, we proposed administrative autonomy for the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. We have proposed that they elect an administrative council of 11 member divided into 11 departments which will have control of their day-to-day life without any intervention from us. In our plan we proposed free choice of citizenship--either Israeli or Jordanian--and a parliamentary expression for that administrative autonomy--that is, whoever chooses Israeli citizenship will vote for the Knesset; whoever chooses Jordanian citizenship will participate in elections to the Jordanian Parliament.

The U.S. Government expressed its support for (?the principles) of the proposals included in our autonomy plan; however, it proposed something else to us: that after 5 years a referendum be held in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. As for Israeli military forces, U.S. spokesmen have expressed the opinion that our army should remain in its camps, or in camps to be determined, in all three of these areas for even longer than 5 years.

I wish to point out that we see this as something positive and important because we have announced that we will not intervene in the day-to-day life of the residents, but it is clear that we will have to maintain responsiblity for security and public order; otherwise the organization of murderers will take control of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza with the results such a development would bring.

It was our duty not to accept the proposal to hold a referendum because this would inevitably lead to what the Americans as well do not want--the establishment of a Palestinian state. According to the U.S. proposals, three questions would be posed to the residents to vote on and decide: a continuation of the existing situation; ties with Israel; ties with the Kingdom of Jordan. It was stressed to us that no fourth question would be posed--that is, a Palestinian state--in order to remove our doubt about where such a referendum would lead.

We regret that we were unable to accept the theory that if the fourth question is not asked we can be assured that the establishment of this hostile country will not take place.

It should be remembered that the pressure, the threat and the terror of that organization of murderers exists. They have also taken the lives of four citizens in the region of Ramallah and Jerusalem--all this in order to sow fear; and we have experience with countries where fear reigns over both the citizens and some of the rulers. You do not have to stand next to the resident or citizen while he is voting for him to vote the way the regime or those who sow fear would like. Because of this fear that threatens and exists, the vote would be between 95 and 99 percent in favor of the desire of those who sow fear.

Therefore, we can and must say: for us this is a problem of life while for all other elements, including the United States of America, this is a question of policy--important policy, but still policy.

[Indistinct interjection by Citizens Rights Movement spokesman]

[Begin] For us this is a question of existence and for this reason we have to examine the two following possibilities: either to boycott the elections or to cast a ballot marked as I mentioned just now. In either case this is a danger to our future and we are not prepared to endanger our future for the concept of a referendum. On the other hand, we have agreed that in 5 years there would be a reexamination of all agreements regarding the administrative autonomy, that is to say, every element. The administration, the Jordanian Government or the Israeli Government would be able to make proposals for changes. We have not been able to agree and we will not agree to the holding of a referendum or to a democratic settlement which would be the opposite under existing circumstances.

[Several indistinct interjections from the floor]

As for the declaration of principles, various formulas have been proposed. I wish to point out, against the background of relations between us and the United States, that several formulas have been agreed on by representatives of the two governments and the only question is if the third party agrees. Thus, we discussed several draft formulas. We received a formula for two clauses from the Egyptian Government: one discussing withdrawal and the other discussing what the Egyptians call self-determination for the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el. We explained that these two clauses are unacceptable to us.

With regard to the first clause, the Egyptians tied in the preface of Resolution 242 which says that it is forbidden to gain territory through war with the operative part of Resolution 242, an Israeli withdrawal from territories conquered in the conflict of 1967. We have explained that this linkage means a demand for Israel to withdraw totally to the lines prior to the 6-day war. This is not acceptable nor will it be in the future. We have explained that the sentence from the preface of Resolution 242 stands on its own because it states a just political doctrine--as long as everybody understands that it refers to a war of aggression. It is not true that under international law and practice territorial changes do not take place in the event that the war is a war of defense. On the contrary, in the wake of a war of defense all territorial changes recognized by peoples apply, whether in Europe or in the Far East. Since all of us know that the 6-day war was a war of defense...

[MK Mollie Wilner interjection] Not all of us....

[Begin] And no international institution has ever stated the contrary and the presidents of the United States have written to us over the past 11 years that that war was imposed on Israel. It is clear that in the wake of a war of defense it is agreed that in a peace treaty territorial changes are possible. Thus, linking these two things together in the Egyptian formula proves that it is our duty--as if the 6-day war was a war of aggression--to return to the lines of 4 June 1967. This is unreasonable and unacceptable.

The second formula refers to self-determination. We explained in Ismailia and on all other occasions that this has one meaning--the establishment of a Palestinian state--and since we all reject this idea because dangers are inherent in it....

[Wilner] Not all of us.

[Several indistinct interjections]

[Wilner] Would the prime minister agree to a pro-American Palestinian state? I support the right of self-determination. The Palestinian people will elect the government it wishes and I will accept whatever it elects. It is not our business to choose a government for it.

[Speaker Shamir] Members of the Knesset, soon there will be a general debate and everyone will be able to express his opinion.

[Begin] This formula cannot be acceptable to us. We said this before President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. About 10 days before he came to the Knesset he announced that these were Egypt's two demands: total withdrawal and a Palestinian state, or self-determination to the Arabs whom he calls Palestinians. I said in reaction to that speech that if President as-Sadat wishes to come to our country and appear before the Knesset he will be a welcome guest, but he must know in advance that these two demands are unacceptable and will not be accepted.

Reviewing this part of my remarks, I wish to say, now also, that agreement on a declaration of principles is possible if the Egyptians understand that they cannot demand the two things of us which, in advance, we have announced are unacceptable, that is, the demand for total withdrawal to the lines of 4 June 1967 and the demand for the establishment of a Palestinian state. Any formula which does not include these two demands will be open to negotiation and there are grounds for the hope that we will reach agreement.

We proposed in the latest talks in Washington two clauses regarding this. I will read them verbatim: In the framework of the settlement and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 338, the two governments express their desire to negotiate on a peace treaty while fulfilling all the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 242 which will serve as the basis for negotiations between Israel and all neighboring countries. On the basis of all principles of Resolution 242 there will be a withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories conquered in the 1967 war; there will be secure and recognized borders in which every country in the region will live in peace, free of threats and acts of force. There are gounds to believe that this formula will be acceptable to all parties because all of it is positive. It endorses Resolution 242. It is true that this resolution has several interpretations, but no one can doubt that this formula accepts it at its real meaning. What we do not accept is the addition of words not written in this resolution.

As for the solution of the problem of the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, we have proposed that there be a just solution to the problem of the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el. The Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip will have the right to participate in the determination of their future in talks between Israel, Egypt, Jordan and representatives of the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el. Here it is clear that they will participate in the determination of the future of the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, not through a fictitious referendum, but by participation in the talks to which we have agreed.

[Me'ir Pa'il of [Sheli] Mr Prime Minister, in the [word indistinct] of the self-rule that his honor proposes will there be elections, not a referendum, but elections?

[Begin] Yes, to the administrative council. I want to point out that this clause was accepted in principle by the negotiators and a change in position has taken place--and not by us. We have to return to these positive formulas, as we proposed them, in order to pave the way for agreement on a declaration of principles.

As for settlement, there are differences of opinion between the U.S. Government and the Israeli Government. Both in the recent visit and in the recent talks representatives of the United States of America expressed the opinion that settlement by Jews in Eretz Yisra'el is not in keeping with international law and serves as a barrier to the making of peace. The opinion of the Israeli Government is totally different and I wish to stress it: First, the settlement of Jews in Eretz Yisra'el is totally legal and in accordance with international law; secondly, it is a positive act and does not serve as a barrier to the peacemaking process. It is part of the achievement of peace between us and our neighbors.

Mr Speaker, the vast majority of the Knesset recently expressed its agreement to both parts of the peace plan and now we have added a document with principles in accordance with which--if they are accepted--it will be possible to make progress in the negotiations for the peace plan. However, since its endorsement by the Knesset and since it was submitted to the representatives of other peoples and received their moral support, the other side has announced that it does not accept the plan. Today I can say, in the wake of the talks that we conducted in Washington, that this is the only reason, and there is no other, for there having been a change in the remarks of praise and agreement made with respect to our peace plan. I wish to point out that it has now been made clear to us that simply because the other side has announced that our plan is unacceptable an end has come to the words of agreement with the essence of the plan. I want to state that this is not just. I also said this in the United States while appealing directly to public opinion. A good plan does not become the opposite if it is unacceptable to the other party. If it is good in essence, objectively, then it stays that way even if someone rejects it.

[Shulamit Alloni] But just recently you announced that you did not accept 242 on the West Bank. Previously it was acceptable to all.

[Indistinct interjection by Yigal Allon]

[Begin] No, no, just a minute, Yigal; I want to listen to the lady, please.

[Alloni] After the plan was approved and after it was submitted, you announced that you do not accept 242 on Judaea and Samaria; therefore, things have changed and received a totally different interpretation.

[Begin] What the lady has said is totally wrong.

[Unidentified interjection] Perhaps you could clarify things.

[Begin] I don't have to clarify; she does. There are no grounds for this.

[Pa'il] Can one understand from this that the prime minister agrees that 242 applied to the West Bank?

[Begin] I have read our declaration of principles as it was written and stands and, therefore, this is the answer to all your questions.

[Alloni] The Bible also has an interpretation. We want to understand what stands behind this.

[Unidentified interjection] Why can't we know what the government's position is on Resolution 242?

[Begin] Mrs Alloni, please listen to my answer. In our peace plan we explicitly stated that our people demand and have the right of sovereignty over Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. We propose that we leave the question of sovereignty open for agreement and, therefore, there is no contradiction between our peace plan and any Security Council resolution. As for the endorsement of the resolution, I said this explicitly in our declaration of principles.

I want to ask our people not to harm themselves in the manner that others wish to do. That is to say, the plan is a good plan. It is a plan that should lead to serious peace negotiations and to the establishing of peace in the region of the Middle East. We will stand by it; as it was endorsed by the Knesset we will continue to demand negotiations on it, including the third document as submitted by us on a declaration of principles.

Together with the foreign minister I found deep friendship between our two countries in the United States, even now. It evolves from the spiritual ties between our two peoples, from the belief in democracy and man's freedom, in human justice, a free world whose values should be protected. Both peoples are aware of a common interest. We help each other. This friendship will also overcome the differences of opinion that have arisen against the background of the achievement of peace and the essence of the peace treaty between us and our neighbors. This is our hope and our belief.

The deep friendship between us and the United States will overcome the difficulties, but it is my duty to say that if we face demands that might harm the essential interests of our people we will not hesitate to tell the U.S. Government of things that are unacceptable. We are talking about our future and the future of our children. We are surrounded by enemies. We are the only country in the world against which there is a document maintaining that it should disappear. In the entire world there is no country against which such a document exists and most Arab countries stand behind the organization that wrote that document, supporting it with arms, equipment, with everything.

Here is the danger that we face from all sides. For this reason we have to be exceedingly wary when discussing any proposal. We should say yes when it does not harm our real interest--our security, future and rights, and say no when the proposal might harm the interests and future of our people. This is the point at issue today and we are deliberating as free men without hiding anything but with the deep faith that we have a just cause. We will continue to stand by our just cause and we will unite around the State of Israel's just peace plan. In this way we will overcome the difficulties and take our people toward peace.

KNESSET MEMBERS SPEAK IN POLITICAL DEBATE

TA291218Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 29 Mar 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Let's go back to the Knesset. Our correspondent Razi Barqa'i reviews the remarks made up to this moment in the political debate:

The debate here continues, it must be said rather out of the limelight. There are not many present in the hall. Surprisingly, the government table is empty. They are now in the cafeteria discussing the formulation of proposals for a resolution. There is still a long list of speakers. Here are the remarks of some of thos who have already spoken. Deputy Minister Yoram 'Aridor attacked opposition leader Shim'on Peres saying that Mr Peres opposes a referendum in Judaea and Samaria but he proposes handing over parts of Judaea and Samaria even without a referendum. The deputy minister says that not only President Carter but As-Sadat himself said that our plan is a big step forward and should not prevent Jordan from entering the negotiations. The fact that President as-Sadat changed his mind should not cause us to change our mind. If we accept the opposition's views, about Eretz Yisra'el we will turn Judaea and Samaria into a south southern Lebanon, 'Aridor said.

The MAPAM secretary general, MK Me'ir Talmi outlined what he regards as successful negotiations: Recognizing UN Resolution 242 with respect to all fronts, including Judaea and Samaria; insuring secure and recognized borders for Israel and solving the Palestinian problem in a political Jordanian-Palestinian framework. As for the government's policy, said MK Talmi, it is taking serious responsibility by endangering the chance that we have been awaiting for 30 years. It does not have a mandate for this, and it does not deserve confidence, and if the coalition parties are unable to overcome this dogmatic inflexibility--as he put it--that is wasting the chance for peace, and it must appeal to the people and ask its opinion, for this is a fateful crossroads.

At the moment DMC MK Mordekhay Virshubsky is on the podium. Let's listen to some of his remarks:

[Virshubsky] I am not as peace with the government's policy nor with its implementation. As I will explain later, I think that today the dispute is not around policy but on very marginal issues which could be removed thus allowing us to see many hands--from most of the house--in the air at the end of the debate.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Knesset, I think that today the prime minister had the worst of both worlds. On the one hand, sometimes a leader has to reach an uncomfortable settlement, and then he appeals to his people and says: Gentlemen, this is what I have achieved and you have no choice but to accept it for I cannot do any more. There is a situation in which he cannot reach a settlement, and then he appeals to the people and the people say: We stand behind you as one man. The present situation is that we have neither agreement with the Americans, nor do we have much chance for a settlement--for the continuation of the negotiations with the Egyptians--nor unity in the house.

[Unidentified interjection] But we have a partner like the DMC and that is some consolation.

[Virshubsky] There are some things to which the DMC is partner with pride and joy.

[Announcer] Earlier, in his remarks, Virshubsky, a DMC and coalition man, said that he is not at peace with the government's policy. So the main question in the Knesset at the moment is whether the coalition will succeed in appearing united during the vote in a few hours time.

Meanwhile, it appears that some members of the coalition will abstain. This refers to some DMC Knesset members who do not agree with the government's policy on the issue of 242. Two MAFDAL Knesset members might vote with their feet--they will not be present in the hall during the vote. These are MKs Glass and Melamed.

For other reasons, of course, MK Ge'ula Kohen will also abstain unless, as she told us, the government will be threatened by defeat. By the way, Moshe Shamir will support the government.

At this very moment, the prime minister and DMC members Rubinstein, 'Amit and Tamir are seated and trying to reach a compromise formula which the DMC can live with.

From here, back to the studio.

Debate Continues

TA291220Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Mar 78 TA

[Text] MK Avraham Sharir of the Likud said that we have to tell the United States quite clearly that its position is not acceptable to us. He thinks that the U.S. administration is deluding itself that it is possible to apply pressure on Israel and bring it to accept what is unacceptable to most of the people and to the present and previous governments. MK Sharir called on the Knesset to release itself from the myth around the As-Sadat visit.

MK Hayyim Bar-Lev of the Alinement said that the essence of the dispute is this: The Alinement stresses Israel's security requirements while the government stresses various emotional issues. He attacked the lack of willingness to withdraw from parts of Judaea and Samaria and also said that a return to the international border in Sinai endangers our security. Such a return was volunteered by Mr Begin to President as-Sadat.

Two members of the DMC, which is in the coalition, joined in the attack against the government--David Golomb and Mordekhay Virshubsky. MK Virshubsky said that the prime minister has the worst of both worlds--neither a settlement externally nor domestic unity.

MK Yosef Rom of the Likud said that destruction criticism serves our enemies. We have to be wary of illusions, of false peace prophets. The real struggle is against the demand by Egypt and the Arab countries for a total withdrawal to the 1967 borders and against the U.S. trend toward realizing the Brookings plan as a continuation of the Rogers plan.

MK Ayre Eli'av of Shelli strongly criticized the government for the settlements in Sinai and its general position on the settlement issue.

At the moment a few dozen Arab students are demonstrating against the Israeli Government, calling for the removal of Mr Begin from office and in favor of an immediate evacuation of southern Lebanon. MK Tawfiq Toubi of Hadash is among the demonstrators.

BEGIN'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT AS-SADAT OUTLINED

TA281648Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 28 Mar 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] Prime Minister Begin transferred his letter of reply to President as-Sadat via the U.S. Embassy today. The letter deals mainly with the proposal to renew the deliberations of the joint committees. Our political correspondent Yosi La'or adds: [begin recording]

In a letter of less than 2 pages the prime minister answers the second letter of President as-Sadat. The Egyptian president raised, in his second letter as well, arguments and remarks regarding various Israeli statements. The prime minister replies to these remarks one by one. The major part of the letter that will be handed to the U.S. Embassy in Cairo in the course of the day through the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv deals with the future.

The prime minister again proposes that the deliberations of the Political and Military committees be resumed. The two countries have just begun the deliberations in these two committees; therefore, Begin proposes that the work that had shown progress in its initial phases be continued.

The prime minister emphasizes to the Egyptian president that in order to promote the negotiations he should pay attention to the plan submitted by Israel. Progress would be made with the help of a detailed counterproposal that Cairo could submit and by negotiating on the basis of the two plans.

It is expected in Jerusalem that President as-Sadat will reply to Mr Begin's letter so that the contact through letters will turn into a permanent phenomenon.

At the same time, it can be assumed that the defense minister will leave for Cairo in the near future and will meet there with his colleague, War Minister al-Jamasi. [end recording]

BEGIN'S OFFICE CHIEF: WEIZMAN TO MEET EGYPTIANS SOON

TA281939Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Good evening. First, a report which reached us only a few minutes ago: Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, the director general of the prime minister's office, confirmed a few minutes ago, in an interview on French radio, that Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman will meet in the shortest possible time with Egyptian leaders. Dr Ben-Elisar did not say where. He said this, as stated, in an interview on French radio which was picked up by our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus.

During the broadcast, Dr Ben-Elisar replied to questions from listeners, saying, in a conversation with a listener from Morocco, that the prime minister had received a message from King Hassan II and that Mr Begin will reply.

Ben-Elisar Corrects Report

TA282216Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 2150 GMT 28 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Listening to the broadcasts of French radio, we heard this evening something which has been assumed a great deal here in Israel recently, that is that 'Ezer Weizman will soon be meeting with Egyptian representatives.

The director general of the prime minister's office told the editorial board of the "Almost Midnight" [television news] program a few moments ago that this is not what he said on the broadcast in France, the broadcast which was quoted, but that he expressed the hope that 'Ezer Weizman will indeed be meeting soon.

MINISTER WEIZMAN TO VISIT CAIRO; NO DATE SET

TA282223Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2145 GMT 28 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman will depart for Cairo in the coming days for a meeting with his colleague Al-Jamasi. This was reported by authoritative sources in Jerusalem after the director general of the prime minister's office said a similar thing in a radio program broadcast in France. Our political correspondent Yosi La'or adds details: [begin recording]

Contacts have lately been held through the technical delegation of the Defense Ministry in Cairo regarding the date of the defense minister's visit. Authoritative sources in the capital assessed that the visit will be held in the coming days although, according to them, the date has not been decided. It is known in Jerusalem that the Egyptians want to resume the direct contacts with Israel.

Jerusalem is interested in the defense minister's visit in order to try to renew the Military Committee discussions. This call to renew the discussions of the committees is also included in the prime minister's letter of reply to President as-Sadat. The letter has already been handed to the presidential palace in Cairo. This was reported by the Americans to the prime minister's office this evening. The letter also includes the prime minister's call on President as-Sadat to answer in detail the Israeli peace plan and to raise his own proposals. [end recording]

DAYAN DENIES BRZEZINSKI DEMANDED BEGIN REPLACEMENT

TA281333Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan denied that presidential adviser Z. Brzezinski spoke to him about the need to replace the prime minister.

Last night it was reported from the foreign minister's office that the foreign minister saw the adviser only for a brief talk and did not report its contents to anyone. The office states that it will submit a complaint to the Press Council for publishing in yesterday's DAVAR that the information was given to the broadcasting authority by sources close to the foreign minister. They said that the minister regards this as a political campaign against him.

The reference is to a report broadcast on Thursday evening, according to which a senior U.S. personality told a senior Israeli personality that the prime minister must be replaced. This report created a great reaction, and a motion for the Knesset agenda was submitted to discuss U.S. intervention in Israel's internal affairs.

Yesterday DAVAR reported that an internal investigation in the broadcasting authority revealed that the information was given to a reporter by a source close to the foreign minister. The director general of the broadcasting authority, Y. Livni, said yesterday in response to this, that he did carry out such an investigation, but that the DAVAR correspondent did not talk to him and did not question him, and that things were not precise. What the investigation revealed--Livni said--is that the report is correct, and that the radio and television performed their duty in reporting it.

DAVAR insists on the truth of the report, which was carefully checked prior to publication, and which was again investigated after it was denied. Yesterday's report in DAVAR did not say that Brzezinski talked about the need to replace the prime minister, but that the broadcasting authority's correspondent was told by the source that the things were hinted at in the adviser's talk with the foreign minister. This, too, was checked and reaffirmed. In an article on this issue in today's paper, DAVAR proposes that all the concerned parties be examined by polygraph.

JDL GROUP DEMONSTRATES AT U.S. EMBASSY, TO MEET LEWIS

TA281318Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Some 15 members of the Jewish Defense League forced their way into the U.S. Embassy building in Tel Aviv at noon. Our correspondent Mikha'el Huller reports that the league members wore masks painted to resemble Menahem Begin. The U.S. deputy chief of mission talke to them in the foyer of the building and, according to Rabbi Kahana, promised to arrange a meeting with the ambassador in a week.

STUDENTS PROTEST U.S. INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS

TA281458Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 28 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Some 150 students from Bar Ilan University demonstrated yesterday in front of the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv against "U.S. interference in Israel's internal affairs."

The demonstrators claimed that U.S. policy leads to the establishment of a Palestinian state, and came out against "whispers by U.S. officials regarding the replacement of Israel's prime minister."

The representative of the student union was received by a member of the embassy staff, and on behalf of the students asked that their protest be forwarded to the President of the United States.

CORRESPONDENT COMMENTS ON U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS

TA281227Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 28 Mar 78 p 11 TA

[Yo'el Marcus commentary]

[Text] Washington--The more the administration expects journalists in Israel to "cut Begin down" and the more the administration builds on the fact that Israeli public opinion will do its work in applying domestic pressures on Begin, the less I feel like playing the part slated for me and other Israeli journalists in the drama that we are witnessing.

This is not because I find it hard to level criticism against Mr Begin. I think that he has made many mistakes--the main one being: He played the exact part of the inflexible man that As-Sadat had prepared for him. From this point of view there is a surprising similarity between As-Sadat's tactics and those of Ben-Gurion, who, during the long years of conflict between him and Begin, knew how to get Begin tangled up in himself and leave him trapped.

I do not want to join the choir of Begin's critics because it is not true to say that he has sole responsibility for the mistakes. All the parties involved in this delicate and sensitive process behaved like bulls in a china shop. It is not fair to place all the blame on Begin simply because he represents the easiest target to snipe at to apply pressur to in the Arab-U.S.-Israel triangle.

Moreover, a war of nerves is now being waged against Israel and if the maxim that a crisis in negotiations is a continuation of dialog by other means is true, then this means that the creation of an atmosphere of crisis at this time is negotiable currency for U.S. diplomacy. There is no necessity for us to play according to these rules. Now it is important for us not to panic but to stop and think how things broke down and how we carry on from here.

In retrospect one can say that all parties contributed to pushing the process to the edge of the abyss. First, Mr Begin's motives are unclear. What does he want? If he wants to be loyal to his long-standing ideology and not return the West Bank at any price he should not have tried to get smart with the world. He was elected in democratic elections and the issue was central in his platform. He should not have told the administration that "everything is open to negotiation" and thus created a feeling of personal insult to Carter by leading him astray.

If, deep in his heart, he knew that he would not return the West Bank, even for total peace, he should not have invited As-Sadat to Jerusalem. It was sufficient for him to say that As-Sadat does not need a written invitation to come to Jerusalem in order for him not to come. Begin did not have to demand from Carter total peace with diplomatic relations, commercial relations, and so on, in order to make Carter and As-Sadat look like two people who have taken off all their clothes while he remains fully dressed and does not play his part. It is very difficult to resolve the many internal contradictions in Begin's diplomacy. Either he has a flawed mind for thinking that it is possible to achieve total peace and keep the West Bank in our hands, or his internal strength is insufficient to meet the challenges of peace.

As-Sadat's motives are not clear either. What does he want to achieve? I believe that he has had enough of the dispute. He understands, however, that in the present framework of inter-Arab relations with a large part of the Arab world not prepared to recognize Israel's existence, there will be no end to the dispute unless there is a direct U.S. involvement to bring about a total Israeli withdrawal. From his remarks, one can believe that everything depends on U.S. pressure on Israel.

One gains the impression, however, that over and above this basic thinking As-Sadat did not work out the next moves and left them to intuition and fate. He did not work out what would happen when a single Arab leader concedes in negotiations with Israel. He did not work out things over which he would bargain with Israel nor did he conceive that after 10 years of conquest and 30 years of war and in view of the possibility that most of the Arab world would continue to be hostile to Israel, he would also be asked to make concessions.

The aims of the United States are unclear. The most blatant thing is the increased feeling that the United States is interested in a moderate Arab world flooded with reasonably priced oil. Since the administration feels that any other alternative would augur disaster it is not yet clear what role has been slated for Israel in fulfilling this interest. Is it its fate to perish? God forbid. Even though the holocaust is long past and the guilt feelings are disappearing, conscience is still counterbalancing cold political considerations. In my opinion, Israel's fate in the concept that is being consolidated is the same as that in De Gaulle's concept.

We have seen that Israel must find a modest place in reaching understanding with its powerful neighbors. This means settling relations in the region in such a manner that Israel will no longer serve as a barrier between interests and conscience. What can be done if practice is not what the theory intended? The PLO has not become more moderate. Syria is not playing the game and even the moderate Husayn is not prepared to join the talks. Nothing is happening at a speed that will alleviate the administration's feeling of panic.

This is what has happened in recent weeks with all moves running around. Begin became stuck when he should have clarified the meaning of "everything being open to negotiations." As-Sadat became stuck when it transpired that he would have to negotiate with Israel alone. Carter became stuck between what he regarded as a U.S. interest and his ability to see it through. We see here an unhappy meeting between three dilettantes who thought they were making sophisticated moves and found themselves on a stupid head-on collision course.

Since, sooner or later, it will transpire that all will go down as losers, the way to avoid the collision is not to deepen the crisis but for all the parties to find a way out. Israel must decide for itself if it is prepared to give up territories for peace. Only when it decides on this will it be able to prevent the final loss of U.S. public opinion, and win it over with its just demands.

The administration must understand that by applying brutal pressure to Israel it will lose a partner, and without a partner the administration will not have anyone from whom to take in order to give to the Arabs. The United States must understand that so long a dispute cannot be resolved in a moment. As-Sadat must also understand that it is impossible to take only the Palestinians, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia as well as his domestic problems under consideration while ignoring domestic Israeli sensitivities.

The positions of all the parties have become so acute that if no way out of the deadlock is found no one will be winner. It can be assumed that we are at the beginning of an interim period for all parties to think again, rather than at a final crisis. I would not be surprised if this interim period ends with each party in the triangle being forced to take a step back in order to create a little room for the game of diplomacy and for commonsense.

IDF WATCHING TERRORIST, IRAQI FORCES IN LEBANON

TA281609Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Mar 78 pp 1, 7 TA

[By Eytan Haber]

[Excerpts] The IDF is closely watching the growing terrorist concentrations in the region of An-Nabatiyah, which is 15 km northwest of Metulla--about 5 km north of the Litani River.

News agencies report from Beirut that diplomatic sources there said yesterday that Iraqi terrorists armed with artillery and other heavy weapons plan to escalate activity from the region of An-Nabatiyah. Among other things, these terrorists are talking about stepping up the shelling of Israeli settlements.

The terrorists have recently doubled their force in the region of An-Nabatiyah. This force now includes over 1,000 terrorists and over 600 more 'irregular' Iraqis led by officers of the Iraqi Army.

It has been reported in Israel that no Syrian proposal has been received to the effect that its army be deployed on the banks of the Litani River to prevent terrorist activity. At present it is not clear here who is proposing this and how this could be implemented. Moreover, at present, among defense circles, there is a tendency not to allow the Syrians to advance toward the Litani River and that it would be better for them to stay where they are.

It has been learned that the Syrians recently have moved closer to the border with Israel in the region of Fatahland. Members of the Syrian Army were spotted in the Hasbayya region, only 8 km from Har Dov, which is under Israeli control. The Hasbayya area is east of the Litani River.

It can be assumed that Israel will act quietly to move the Syrians away from this area.

UN CONSIDERING DEPLOYMENT TO AN-NABATIYAH AREA

TA281614Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Mar 78 pp 1, 15 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Excerpt] Commanders of the UN Emergency Force in the Middle East will examine the possibility of transferring UN units to the region of An-Nabatiyah north of the Litani River in order to prevent terrorist shelling of Israeli territory from there.

Yesterday, Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur met with Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, the commander of the emergency force, and discussed with him the terrorist shelling of Israeli territory the Christian enclaves and regions where IDF forces remain deployed in southern Labanon.

It has been learned that the Lebanese Government has also asked that the UN forces deploy in the region of An-Nabatiyah. A similar request was submitted to the United Nations by the IDF and the United Nations is inclined to respond to the request. The commander of the UN forces in southern Lebanon, Gen Emmanuel Erskine, left this morning for Beirut in order to discuss this matter with the Lebanese Government, while General Siilasvuo will be leaving for Beirut and Damascus tomorrow in order to discuss the possibility of deploying a UN force in An-Nabatiyah with the Lebanese and Syrian governments. The Syrians still oppose this.

REPORT ON PLO ACTIVITY CONCERNING S. LEBANON

TA290747Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Mar 78 TA

[Text] South Lebanon--Contacts will be made today in Beirut and Damascus in an attempt to force the terrorists to withdraw from the territories close to the Litani River and to enable the United Nations to increase the number of its forces, as well as to allow the force to enter other areas. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports:

In rejecting last night the demand of the UN forces' commander that the terrorists withdraw from their positions in southern Lebanon, PLO head Yasir 'Arafat said that such a withdrawal will be possible only if Israel withdraws from the West Bank and from Gaza. Abu Iyad, 'Arafat's deputy, added to this declaration last night in Beirut that the terrorists will fight against the UN forces if they try to prevent PLO men from returning to their positions in southern Lebanon.

Terrorist spokesmen have told the BBC correspondent in Beirut that their men will continue to fire on IDF soldiers until the last Israeli soldier withdraws from Lebanon, and that the PLO will refuse to hand over its positions in southern Lebanon to the UN. At the same time, 'Arafat promised the United Nations that the terrorists would allow the international forces to enter the area close to the Israeli border.

These remarks by the terrorist leaders turned on a red light in Beirut and President Sarkis urgently met with two of 'Arafat's deputies last night in an attempt to persuade them to withdraw from the south and to hold their fire. Beirut waits in anticipation for the results of the contacts General Sillasvuo will hold today in Damascus. Siilasvuo will try to persudade the Syrians to remove the terrorists from areas from which they can fire missiles at Israel, and, to that end, to agree to widen the area under UN control north of the Litani River, and to increase the number of UN forces to 8,000.

The Beirut government supports this plan, which will probably arouse the terrorists' anger.

Meanwhile, last night information on further reinforcements of fighters, arms and ammunition arriving at the terrorists' strongholds in southern Lebanon continued to flow in. A convoy of 10 Iraqi trucks brought arms to the terrorists in An-Nabatiyah and others reached terrorist strongholds in the Jazzin area, close to Tyre.

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS ON SYRIAN MOVES TOWARD BORDER

TA281256Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 28 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] Syrian forces which were stationed until recently north of Fatahland in Lebanon, have in the last few days proceeded toward the Israeli border and a vanguard is now near the Druze village of Hasbayya in the center of Fatahland, 10 km from the cease-fire line with Israel.

The Syrian progress toward the Israeli border was carried out without any connection with the idea which has lately been mentioned in Israel that the best way to supervise the terrorists is to allow the Syrian Army to proceed to the Litani River from the north.

This idea has been mentioned by military circles, but did not receive the approval of the political level. It should be mentioned that the Fatahland area is located east of the Litani River and was outside the area in which the IDF operated in Southern Lebanon. It seems that the Syrians sent a unit from their army in the direction of Hasbayya after one of the IDF's units, during the operation against the terrorists in southern Lebanon, proceeded toward the southwestern part of Fatahland and stopped opposite the RA's ash-Shaq'ah bridge, close to the road to the village of Al-Fardis.

Today the Syrian vanguard is stationed approximately 3 km north of Hasbayya. The distance between that township and Har Dov is approximately 7 km--and that is the closest to the Israeli border the Syrian units in Lebanon have ever reached. The Syrian units are, however, even closer than that to our forces still stationed near the Ra's ash-Shaq'ah bridge.

The township of Hasbayya is the largest settlement in Fatahland and in it is a Druze religious center. The terrorists took over that township about 9 years ago and the IDF was then forced to operate against it several times in the past with its air force and artillery. In one of these bombings a group of civilians was killed accidentally. Later the terrorists, under the inhabitants' pressure, transferred most of their men to the hills surrounding the township, but their headquarters are still inside Hasbayya. Recently the township was mentioned when--following the IDF operation in southern Lebanon--Israel demanded that UN forces be stationed there.

FULL CEASE-FIRE EXPECTED IN LEBANON IN 36 HOURS

TA282131Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 28 Mar 78 TA

[Text] A full cease-fire in southern Lebanon will apparently prevail within 36 hours. This was learned by our military correspondent Roni Dani'el. It was reported this evening that Yasir 'Arafat promised Kurt Waldheim, the UN secretary general, that the terrorists will stop shooting.

As for the deployment of the UN force in southern Lebanon, our correspondent reports that the force intends to occupy a 3-km strip along the Litani River. At least three battalions will be stationed in this strip. Another battalion will be stationed in the area of Bint Jubayl in the central region. There will be no deployment of UN forces along the Israeli border and our correspondent assesses that Israel's freedom of action will not be impaired.

The United Nations thinks that deploying the forces and establ ing them in the area of will take about a month. The IDF will not evacuate any area t re the UN forces complete their deployment. Israel, our correspondent says, also wants units to establish themselves beyond the Litani, in Hasbayya, An-Nabatiyah and t Beaufort Castle. The clarifications about this matter continue. The coordinator UN activity in the region, General Siilasvuo, intends to have the entire UN force enter uthern Lebanon and only later to begin the deployment of forces. Israel will seek ave units of Major Haddad's army deployed along the northern border. If necessary Israel will extend aid to these units.

RAKAH ASKS ISRAELI ARABS TO KEEP 'LAND DAY' PEACEFUL

TA281515Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 28 Mar 78 p 3 TA

[Text] Clear orders to maintain a low profile this year and not to be too conspicious in preparing for "Land Day" on 30 March were given by the heads of RAKAH in the villages of the Galilee.

A month ago there were still debates regarding the nature of the event. The extremists among the villagers and the students demanded that a labor strike be held, while some of the Arab leaders believed it sufficient to hold only memorial ceremonies.

Following the attack on the bus, and the IDF reaction in Lebanon, it was agreed among all the elements in the Arab villages that they would act in a subdued manner.

LIBERALS REJECT PROPOSED COMMON FRONT WITH ALINEMENT

TA281758Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Mar 78 p 6 TA

[By Avraham Tirosh]

[Text] The Liberal Party last night issued a reaction to remarks by MK Abba Eban, who had said that the Alinement should hold talks with the liberals in order to crystallize a new approach to make changes in the cabinet policy.

The statement issued in the name of the heads of the party says: "How can the Labor Party think that the Liberal Party, which stands entirely behind the peace program, will support the voices being heard from the opposition that are likely to make possible the establishment of a state of PLO murderers in Judaea and Samaria?

"Abba Eban, who was a cabinet member lacking in drive and who is fearful, is apparently not used to the idea that there is a cabinet in Israel that guides the country from a long-term viewpoint and that does not bend with every wind which blows from Washington."

BEGIN TO APPOINT HOROWITZ 'SUPER ECONOMIC MINISTER'

TA2814312Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Zevi Timor]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin intends to appoint a super economic minister as part of his plan to "reorganize" his cabinet. The minister designated for that post is Yig'al Horowitz.

M. Begin expressed his opinion to his associates that the matters in the economic sphere are not operating as they should and that there is a need to increase the supervision over the work of the central economic ministries--our correspondent learned this from reliable sources.

In view of the dispute between the minister of agriculture and the minister of housing over real estate issues, what has been termed by M. Begin as "malfunctioning in the operation of his government" and a lack of coordination between the ministries of housing and commerce, the prime minister intends to appoint Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Yig'al Horowitz as a super economic minister and as the coordinator of the activities of the ministries of agriculture, housing, energy and infrastructure.

By making that appointment Begin intends to create a sort of cabinet of senior ministers within the framework of his government.

This proposal is interpreted as an attempt to undermine the status of Finance Minister Simah Ehrlich, who, as finance minister and chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Economic Affairs, is the most senior economic minister. According to M. Begin's proposal, Yig'al Horowitz's status will be equal to that of the finance minister.

The proposal is also a blow to the other ministers of the Liberal Party, Gid'on Pat and Y. Moda'i, holding economic-type portfolios who will, consequently, become junior ministers.

On the other hand, giving additional authority to Y. Horowitz is interpreted as a reward for his loyalty to the prime minister's political line. Sources believe that this proposal, if Begin raises it in the cabinet, and the predicted disagreement over the candidate for the presidency of Israel will probably further deepen the dispute between the two major components of the Likud.

POLICE INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE SUBMITS REPORT

TA2907512Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Israel's police are not equipped to handle major terrorist attacks. That is the conclusion of the committee appointed by the police to investigate the terrorist strike 11 March on the Tel Aviv-Haifa road. The committee report criticized the police, charging that when they took over responsibility for internal security, they did not have the proper manpower or equipment for the job.

As for the operation itself, the committee found that the police had acted properly in the battle and chase of the terrorists, and that the judgment made in stopping the bus with roadblocks and opening fire on it was correct.

After discussing the report, Interior Minister Burg decided to ask the prime minister to insure that helicopters, sophisticated communications gear and other equipment are provided for antiterrorist work.

IRANIAN MEDIA REPORT ATTACKS BY 'BLACK REACTION'

LD282130Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1900 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The PARS agency has reported that the agency's correspondents have sent in the following dispatches on the incidents occurring on 27 and 28 March.

During the night of 27 March unknown persons in Qazvin broke a few windowpanes of the branches of the Iranshahr and Saderat banks on two streets in this city. Seeing security officials, the attackers fled leaving behind their tools and a bottle containing gasoline and incendiary materials.

At 2200 on the same day one of the branches of the Sepah Bank in Qazvin was subjected to attack and a windowpane was broken. The attackers also lobbed a bottle containing incendiary materials into the building. The fire died down before the firemen arrived and caused no damage. The attackers fled from security officials in the darkness of the night.

Our correspondent's dispatch from Babol also says that at 2300 on 27 March some 50 masked persons began to move into town and onto Farah Avenue in Babol, while distributing a harmful statement. They broke a few windowpanes of the branches of the Bazargani and Saderat banks and the glass covering the sign on the main door of the Iranian people's Rastakhiz Party headquarters. The rioters, who were moving toward Babol's bazaar, were dispersed by security officials and six of them were arrested.

At 1930 on 27 March in Teheran one of the windowpanes of the branch of the Saderat-e Iran Bank was broken by unknown persons. On inspection by the police an incendiary bottle was discovered in the bank.

According to a dispatch from our representative in Kashan, at 0600 this morning, three unknown persons lobbed a can containing gasoline toward the entrance of the Bita motion picture theater in Kashan. During the attack the theater's door was set on fire, but thanks to the efforts of the employees and security officials the fire did not penetrate to other parts of the threater.

Following the incidents reported by the PARS agency--and in view of the attacks launched during the past few months against high schools and educational and public organizations and in view of the manner of these incidents and the identity of their perpetrators and inciters--it has been said by the Teheran quarters that once again in the modern era a left hand protruding from the sleeve of black reaction has subjected the Iranian people's interests to onslaught. The opinion has also been expressed that the desperate attack by the agents of black reaction is unable to destroy the atmosphere of national understanding in our homeland, but will instead unite and close the ranks of the Iranian people for the purpose of confronting contaminated hands and ideas.

INDIA

DELHI CITES SOURCES ON DESAI DIALOG WITH U.S., USSR

BK291030Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Mar 78 BK

[Text] According to official sources in New Delhi, the exchange of ideas between Mr Morarji Desai and President Carter on disarmament is part of the dialog that the prime minister has been carrying on with U.S. and Soviet leaders on various international issues.

Mr Desai has told both the superpowers that if there is anything he can do to promote understanding between them, his services would be available. In this connection it is stated that India took part in the recent intense diplomatic activity to resolve the crisis in the Horn of Africa between Ethiopia and Somalia. As a result there is now broad understanding that whatever the nature of conflict between neighbors, it can not be resolved through war but only through peaceful means.

OFFICIAL DENIES PRESS REPORT ON PRC BORDER STAND

BK281046Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Mar 78 BK

[Text] An official spokesman in New Delhi has denied a report in a section of the press that China has conveyed through diplomatic channels to India that it would not withdraw from the occupied areas in Ladakh, including Aksaichin. The spokesman said it is not true that China has conveyed any views on the border issue to India.

VAJPAYEE DISMISSES THREATS ON SARKAR DETENTION

BK291017Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister emphatically declared in the Lok Sabha today that the government will not be cowed down by threats for the release of the Ananda Marga chief, Mr P.R. Sarkar. He has been convicted on charges of murder and has appealed against the sentence. The government has no intention of interfering with the judicial process.

Mr Vajpayee was replying to questions on a calling attention notice by Mr K. Lakappa, Congress, and others on the detection of a bomb at the Indian high commissioner's residence in Canberra last week.

SOVIET AIR FORCE CHIEF ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

BK281045Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The commander in chief of the Soviet Air Force and deputy defense minister, Air Chief Marshal Pavel S. Kutakhov, was given a warm welcome on his arrival in New Delhi today on a 5-day visit to India. He was received at the airport by the chief of the air staff, Air Chief Marshal Moolgavkar.

BHUTAN KING CONCLUDES OFFICIAL VISIT 29 MARCH

BK290927Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The king of Bhutan, Jigme Singhi Wangchuk, left New Delhi for home this morning after a 4-day official visit to India. He was seen off at the airport by the president, the prime minister and the external affairs minister. A number of other dignitaries were also present.

Speaking to newsmen before his depature, the king said Bhutan will continue to further strengthen understanding, trust and friendship with India. The president, Mr Sanjeeva Reddy, in his reply said that relations between the two countries have improved considerably during the last year. He assured the king that the government will do everything possible to foster mutual ties.

MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN DELHI ON VISIT

BK290901Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The foreign minister of Malaysia, Tengku Datuk Ahmad Rithauddeen, arrived in New Delhi this morning on a 4-day official visit to India. He was received at the airport, among others, by the external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport Tengku Rithauddeen said he looks forward to his talks with Indian leaders. He said apart from bilateral issues he will have talks on many other issues including the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. A cultural agreement will also be signed with India.

Welcoming the distinguished visitor, Mr Valjpayee said the ties between India and Malaysia go back centuries. He expressed the hope that Tengku Rithauddeen's visit will contribute further to the strengthening of their mutual ties.

PAKISTAN

AFP: MRS BHUTTO'S HOUSE ARREST ORDER EXTENDED

BK270319Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0311 GMT 27 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, March 27 (AFP)--Authorities yesterday extended for 1 month the house arrest order here against Begum Nusrat, wife of jailed Former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, reliable sources said.

Mr Bhutto meanwhile met with counsel to discuss the appeal he has lodged with the Supreme Court against the death sentence passed on him for plotting a political murder.

AFP: HAQ DECLINES TO COMMENT ON HANDLING OF BHUTTO CASE

BK271732Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1728 GMT 27 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, March 27 (AFP)--Head of the Pakistani military government Gen Mohamed Ziaul Haq today declined to say what decision he would take if the case of Former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto comes to his desk.

Talking to newsmen in Lahore, he said the judicial process had not concluded as yet and it was, therefore, hypothetical to speak about the matter. But, he added, his government wanted to ensure that politicians should know that they were accountable and that justice would be meted out to all, whether he be General Ziaul Haq or anybody else. Mr Bhutto, sentenced to death by the Lahore High Court on March 18 last for ordering a political assasination in 1974 has appealed to the Supreme Court which is yet to start hearing the case. If the Supreme Court upholds the sentence, Mr Bhutto can make a mercy petition to the president, who is required to act on the advice of the chief executive.

HAQ: LAW AND ORDER SITUATION SATISFACTORY

BK271437Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 27 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The chief of the army staff and the chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said the law and order situation throughout the country is good and satisfactory.

Talking informally with newsmen in Lahore today, he said by God's grace and with the people's cooperation his government has no problem in this respect. He said there have been [words indistinct], but the situation is normal. Stressing the need for preserving the stability and integrity of the country by every possible means, he said Pakistan is not the property of any single individual but it belonged to the people as a whole. He said it is the responsibility of every person to strive to safeguard the national interests.

The press, as opinion maker, had a greater responsibility, and it could play an effective role in this respect by avoiding publication of rumors, news and stories likely to create a sensation. The government, on its part, would not tolerate anything detrimental to the interest of the country. He said the press has been given complete freedom to make constructive criticism of the administration, but they would not brook anything that could bring harm to the country.

He emphasized that national integrity and ideology would be protected at every cost and gave the warning that stern action will be taken against those jeopardizing (?national interest). He said the government will not take any action against anybody because of his political alliance or party affiliation, but it would not allow anyone to endanger the country for the sake of a particular individual or a party.

The chief martial law administrator called upon journalists to set up a press council through which they could look after their welfare, enforce their own code of ethics and conduct their own accountability. It would also help promote good and healthy journalism. In reply to a question about the introduction of the Islamic system, he said steps would be taken very soon and full-scale preparations were being made in this respect. The chief martial law administrator said it was essential to have less of agitational politics to insure stability in the country. He said politics should not be for the sake of politics but for the sake of solving the problems of the country.

Earlier the chief of the army staff and the chief martial law administrator addressed the army officers of Lahore garrison this morning. The Punjab martial law administrator, Lt Gen Savar Khan, was also present on the occasion. The chief martial law administrator has now returned to Rawalpindi.

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